

Things to be Look'd for

DISCOURSES

On the Glorious **CHARACTERS**
With Conjectures on the Speedy
APPROACHES of that **STATE**,
Which is

Reserved for the Church of **GOD** in the

LATTER **DAYS**.

Together with an Inculcation of **SEV-**
DUTIES, which the unnumbered
vassals and **Approaches** of that State
Invite us unto :

Delivered unto the **ARTILLERY**
COMPANY of the *Massachusetts*
Colony : *New England* ; at their

ELECTION

Of Officers, for the **YEAR 1691.**

By **COTTON MATHER**

Luke 12. 56.

How is it, that ye do not Discern
this Time ?

CAMBRIDGE :

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PREFACE.

THE Question put by the People to the Prophet, when the Success and Fury of a Mighty Conquerour threaten'd them; Watchman, what of the Night is it? Is in the Evening was attended, and answered with words not unlike those of the Apostle, The Night is spent, the Day is at hand. When the silence of the Artillery lately Commanded So they did, when they only Requested I of me. I found I had formerly more seen on the like Occasions Preached and did so much of Military Duties, that my Thoughts, as it were by some Compulsion, were now unto the PEACE hereafter to be settled; and my Second Thoughts assur'd that I could not readily do my Neighbours a Service, than by advising them about the time when it will come upon us, and war unto us. I am not fearful, tho' I am ever too unserviceable, that I have been left in any thing to be so Dis- serviceable unto my Country as to deserve their scorn; and now I let them see, that I my self am so much in Thrivity with them, as, To give them the Time of the Day.

C. Mather.



Good NEWS in Bad TIMES.

Delivered

On the 1d. of the 4th. 1691:

Unto the

ARTILLERY COMPANY

of the Massachusetts-Colony, New-England.

THE words which an Angel from Heaven once
 used unto the *Shepherds*, Behold, I bring
 you Good News of Great Joy, are those
 which I may at this time Venture to use unto
 all the Pious, yea, even unto the *Arm'd* part
 of this Auditory; I have Good News for you
 at this Day, wherein there is more than a
 little Enquiry after News; and you shall have it,

from **Isaiah 2. 4.**

They shall Beat their Swords into Plough-
 shares, and their Spears into Pruning-
 hooks; Nation shall not lift up their
 Sword against Nation; neither shall they
 learn War any more.

OUR Lord Jesus Christ ha's Glorious Things
 to Do for his Church in the World,
 A 2 phered

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whereof 'tis a Passage in the Sermon of Peter, God hath Spoken of them, by the Mouth of all His Holy Prophets, [of which there is no pretence to Except any but *Jonah*, whose Book is rather an *History* than a *Prophecy*,] which have been since the world began, Behold, One of those Holy Prophets, here Discourſing on the Circumſtances, which the Church is ere long to arrive unto; theſe are among The Glorious things that are ſpoken of thee, O thou City of God!

It was the manner of thoſe Holy Prophets, to paſs from the mention of the diſmal Things, or *Thouſands* which they ſaw Sinful mankind Threatened withal, to the mention of the more Comfortable State, Reſerved for the people of God, the latter days. 'Tis from this *ſtaring* at ſinking, that the warlike and ruſal poſture of the World at this Day, and the *Armar* in which your ſelves are at this Time accoutred, have cauſed me to treat you, with Predictions of a State ſpace coming on, wherein, They ſhall not learn War any more. And you will be ſo far from Suſpecting any Deſign to Diſarm you, when there is ſaid before you a Text, which carries in it the Spoiling of all our Swords and Spears, that I know you will join with me in hearty Lamentations, becauſe I cannot add, This Day is this Scripture fulfilled in your Ears.

Thus our *Aſias* here, having affixed unto the Gates of the Temple, a Roll where all might Read a Deſcription of the Sins and Plagues, which were then to be found upon his people, he quickly put up another Prediction, Concerning the Bleſſings, which God will beſtow upon his Church, in the Days, when the *Mſiah* ſhall

shall come to Judge among the Nations; and, A-
men, even so, Come Lord Jesus! There are Va-
rious Blessings, which we find here ascribed un-
to The Last Days; that is, the Days which
are to come after present long Tyrannies of Sin
and Hell upon the World are Finished. One
of those Blessings, is that of Peace, which con-
tains all Sorts and Stores of Desirable Things
in its Résumé—

To Possess our Owns!

And this Peace is Elegantly Expressed unto
us, by the Notion of mens Altering and Em-
ploying their Weapons of War, to such Uses, as
Peace affords at once Opportunities and Incite-
ments to; viz q. d. Men shall then have no Occa-
sion for Swords and Spears; but apply them-
selves to Preaching, rather than Killing of one a-
nother. Swords and Spears have been such
mischievous things, that methinks, tis a very
easy Sentence that is here pass'd upon them.
To be Turned into Ploughshares, and into
Pruning hooks. When God Enjoined a Sab-
bath every Seventh Year to the Land of Canaan,
as a Shadow of that State wherein this Peace
is to be Enjoy'd, He for that Year forbade
much of the Husbandry usual in it. But now
He comes to Paint out that State of Peace, tis
from the Tools of Husbandry, even Plough-
shares, and Pruning hooks, that he Fetches the
Colours of it. It is no less the Disgrace, than
the Humour of Englishmen, that we must always
have a Prophecy about us; for the Prophecies
which we so fondly do depend upon, are either
the Words of some Jewish Prophet, or the Titles of some
Modern Astronomers, and

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our Value for them is only from a Corrupt Nature in us, which herein do's often Cast contempt upon the *More sure word of Prophecy*. But it is the *Hypocrite*, as well as the *Sturdy*, of *Christians*, to Penetrate into those Prophecies, whereof the Inspired, and Unerring Word of God, is a most faithful Record; of those Prophecies, we are advised, *Blessed is he that Reads them*; and that man of God who Convers'd much with the Books which had them, was called, *A man greatly beloved*.

This a Prophecy from the Oracles of God, which I have now produced you; and lest you should Question it, the Holy Spirit has taken the pains to Record it in the very Syllables of it, no less than Twice, over for you, about the same Time that the Evangelical Jewish prophet said, there was the *Humble* *Messiah* sent upon the five *Errands*, of Heaven to the World; and if you look into the *Fourth Chapter* of his Prophecies, you'll see my Text Word for Word again Repeated there. Now, I pray, what is this? if I may not say like *Isaiah* in another Case, *It is because the thing is Established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass*.

For any to think that it is already come to pass, is altogether as *Ridiculous* as to say, That the *Thousand Years of Satans* *Reign*, began at the *Days of Constantine*. The bare proposal of such *Cross* and *Aburd* Interpretation, is enough to begin in us, a *Dissol* of all the schemes that ever grew out of us. No, it is a *Future State*, that is here set before us. I know a *Doctrine*, which, I hope, still I am sure, *Should*, and a *welcome* *Encouragement* with you.

DOGE

DOCTRINE.

There is a Wonderful STATE of External PEACE, which the God of Heaven will make His People upon Earth, to be the Joyful partakers of.

You will give me leave to say, The people of God upon EARTH shall have this Peace; for, I pray, where else would you look to see the use of Plough shares and Pruning-hooks?

There are three things, that here offer themselves to be Enquired into; First, *what*; Secondly, *whence*; and Thirdly, *when* will be that State of Peace, which is intended for the People of God.

I. Let us in the first place Enquire, *WHAT* will be that State of Peace, wherein we are told, *Mes shall not learn war any more?*

Now this we are to know; That it lyes not merely in the Blessed Settlement and Composure of Spirit, which Believers in all Ages, are the Subjects of. When our Lord Jesus went away to Heaven, He left us that Legacy, In John 14. 27. *Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give unto you.* Hence tis, that our Spirits are not Hoyle'd and Buffled in themselves by any of those dreadful Storms, that come upon the World; for, *Being Justify'd by Faith, we have Peace with God.* Hence tis, that our Spirits have a Disposition to Love and Serve, the *Sovereign that, and our Brethren in the World.*

Having

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Having Saft in our selves, we have Peace one with another. Such a Spiritual Peace, is not all that we are to be Looking for ; No, the Peace promised unto us, is One by which the *Last Days* are to be distinguished ; whereas *All Days* have admitted the Peace, No Days can Spoil, or Quench that Peace, which Believers have in the Lord Jesus Christ, while in the world they must have Tribulation.

Well then, The Peace promised unto us, is that External, as well as Internal, Harmony, Amity, & Unity, which the Children of men shall have in and from the future Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to Receive these two, as most Faithful Sayings, and worthy of all Acceptation.

First. The Lord Jesus Christ shall One Day, enjoy a Kingdom over and among the Children of men in the World ; and this, after a more Visible and Glorious manner than ha's hitherto Appeared. Our Lord Jesus is a Blessed King ; that is One of the High Officers to which our Messias is Anointed by his Eternal Father ; and there is a three-fold Kingdom, which He ha's already the possession of. He ha's a Spiritual Kingdom, wherein He do's by His Word and Grace Rule over the Consciences of men ; thus tis said in Rom. 14. 17. *The Kingdom of God, is Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy.* He ha's also a Providential Kingdom, wherein He Governs all the Affaires and Motions of the World, being entrusted with all the wheels which they turn upon ; thus we find in Ezek. 1. 27. *He is. The man upon the Throne.* He ha's likewise an Ecclesiastical Kingdom, wherein He Appoints and Prospers the Ordinances of

a Church State amongst us, and acts as *The Head of the Church*; tis possible that this may be partly intended, when we read in *Act. 1. 3.* *He speaks of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.* But besides and beyond all this, there is a *Davidical Kingdom* (if I may call it so) that belongs unto our Lord Jesus Christ; A Kingdom whereof the Reign of David had not a little promise and Shadow in it; A Kingdom, wherein His present *Spiritual, and Providential, and Ecclesiastical Kingdom*, shall throw off all the *Eclipses* that are now upon it; A Kingdom whereof 'twas the *Ancient Song*, in *Luke 1. 32, 33.* *The Lord God will give Him the Throne of His Father David, and He shall Reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no End.* Compare *Isaiah 9. 7.* and *Jere. 23. 13.* and *29. 16.* and *36. 30.* The special property of this Kingdom lyes in this; as the *Humane Nature* is Exalted above other Natures, thus the *Jewish Nation* is Exalted above other Nations, upon this Account, *That of them, as concerning the Flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God Blessed for ever.* For That and some other Causes, a Distinct Body of the *Jewish Nation* shall be Exalted unto a most particular Acquaintance with our Lord Jesus Christ; Indeed at their First meeting with *Jesus*, He was unknown unto them, as *Joseph* was unto his Brethren, but at the Next Encounter, (especially if like their Country-man and Exemplar *Paul*, they should have a *Visible Apparition* of Him; for which, Ponder *2 Tim. 1. 16.* *Zech. 12. 10.* *Matth. 24. 30.* and *Rev. 1. 7.*) then they shall Know Him: yea, then shall they be so *Converted, and Advanced* by our Lord Jesus in the

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the World, as that by their means the Earth shall be marvellously filled with *Heavenly* *Low Species* transcending any that the By-past Ages have had Experience of. At present such is the dreadful Interest of the Devil in the World, as that he is called, in Joh. 12. 31. The Prince of this World. Yes, in 1 Cor. 4. 4. The God of this World. Horrible to be spoken ! But the World is a little while hence to have a New Face upon it ; and in that New World, the Lord Jesus Christ shall have as much Influence in the Hearts and Lives of men, as now the Devil has : Then shall there be accomplished that Word, in Psal. 22. 27, 28. All the Ends of the Earth, shall Remember, and Turn unto the Lord ; for the Kingdome is the Lords, and He is Governour among the Nations. This is Reckon'd as part of our Lords Reward, for all the Shame and Pain, and bitter Humiliation, which He ha's undergone in the Lower World, He shall one Day have a Crown as Conspicuous to the World, as that Cross which here He once hung upon. The Lord Jesus Christ shall then have such a Kingdom, that the Generality of Man-kind, shall yeild an Entire and Sincere Subjection to His Blessed Laws ; and men shall every where Adore Him, as Th'ir King, their Lord, their Law-giver. Then shall that promise be fulfilled, in Obad. 21. The Kingdom shall be the Lords ; and that in Isai 24. 23. The Lord shall Reign before His Ancient people Gloriously. The Devil once offered a Kingdom unto our Saviour ; he made use of some unknown Prospectives, partly for the Refraction of the Medium, partly for the Magnifying of the Object, by which he gave unto our Lord in His Temptations, an Ocular View,

View, of at least the whole Roman Empire; and he made our Lord a Tender of that Empire, in case He would Establish Diuel-worship in the World; Antichrist afterwards accepted this profer of the Diuel; and became a Vicar, a Vice-roy to him, but our Lord Christ refused it; and the Issue is to be Agreeable: Antichrist shall shortly lose his Dominion, as all men shall what they take at the Diuels Hands, and on the Diuels Terms; but our Lord Christ shall thereupon Receive a Dominion wherein as we are told [and we have the Word of a God for it] in Dan. 7. 27. The Greatness of the Kingdom under the whole Heaven, shall be given to the People of the Saints of the most High, whose Kingdom is an Everlasting Kingdom, and all Dominions shall serve and Obey Him. Mark, 'Tis a Kingdom [under] the whole Heaven, that is propounded; I know not by what Rule then, it should be Expounded, of Kingdom [in] the Third Heaven. Briefly, Look back upon the Image that Nebuchadnezzar had of the Four Monarchies, & you'll see a Two-fold State on the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. First, that Kingdom ha's the State of a small State; which lyes in the Homage that our Lord Jesus, ha's from a few people here and there, while the Farth [or the Roman] Monarchy is yet a live. But then that Kingdom ha's the State of a Mountain; which will be when the Glory of our Lord shall fill the whole Earth, upon the Dissipation of the last Monarchy which is adverse thereunto. Then shall we have the Answer to that Ancient Prayer, Lord, Let thy Name be Hallowed, Let thy Kingdom come, Let thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven!

Secondly,

Secondly, When the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ Appears, all war will Surcease, and all Peace, all Charity, Amity, and Unity will Succeed in the Room thereof. The Kingdom of Solomon, whose very Name, as well as his Reige, carried Peace in it, was but a little Type of that Kingdom which belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ. When you Read Psalm 72. 7 *In his Dayes shall the Righteous Flourish, and there shall be abundance of Peace, while there is no Moon*; as well as other Bright and Sweet things in that Psalm for Solomon, you must Remember, *A Greater than Solomon is here*. As the Jews will then have no Moon, that is, no Turk, to afflict them in it with a Night of Oppression; so will the Gentiles likewise then have, *Abundance of Peace*. Men shall not then be so Contentious and Quarrel-some, as to Delight in War; but our God ha's told us in Hosea 2. 18. *I will break the Bow, and the Sword, and the Batt'l out of the Earth*; and in Isa. 60. 18. *Violence shall no more be heard in thy Land, wasting nor Destroyed within thy Borders*; and in Isa. 66. 12. *Behold, I will Extend Peace to her, like a River*. Indeed, Every Description that we have of the Condition reserved for the people of God, in the next Age, still gives us Notice of *A Peace like a River*, that is, an Interminable Peace pertaining hereunto. The Inhabitants of that world, shall not so much affect the Exploits of that Angel, that slew near two hundred Thousand Persons with one horrid Thunder storm, as of that Angel which Visited the Pool of Bethesda to heal and help the Inconveniencies of Mankind; there shall be no *Cesars* in that world, who shall Value themselves, as the first of the *Cesars* did, that

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that in their Time they have taken a Million Prisoners, and made more than a Million *Confessions*; nor shall there be any *Scanderbogs*, to boast, that with their own Hands, they have in their Time Slain two Thousand men. Those two things are joined in the *wonderful Name* of our Lord Jesus, *Isai. 9. 6.* He is, *The Father of the world to come*, and, *The Prince of Peace.* He will see that their shall be nothing but *Peace* in that *world* which we are now upon the Borders of. The *First Adam* has left a *World* among his Children, in which there are *Cains & Abels* continually Killing one another; but the *Second Adam* will have no such Doings in the *World* that shall be called, *His.* We are told in *Rom. 13. 10.* *Love worketh no ill to a Neighbor.* But the *World* will then be full of that *Love*, which will dispose men to do one another all the Good they can, as being *Subjects of One Monarch*, yea, *Members of one Body in the Lord Jesus Christ.* They that make the *Seven Churches of Asia*, whom our Lord Jesus hath *Signalized by His Epistles*, to be so many *Figures* of all *Future Churches in the World*, suppose *Philadelphia* to be that which points out the *Temper of things* in the *Kingdom of our Lord Jesus*, truly, 'Tis a *Philadelphia Estate*, which *People* shall then be brought into; *Brotherly Love* shall manage all that is done. A principle of *Love* shall rule the *Ascendent* over all that *Envy* and *Malice*, which is now every where *Practis'd*; so that men shall seek One another's *Welfare* with the same *Integrity* and *Fidelity* that they now pursue their own; and shall not be *Travelsome* One unto another.

EXPECTAND A 2-Or,

Peace, is Expected, upon Hidden Things; as be-
 ing upon that Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 which is called, The Mystery of God. Now this
 is One of the Hidden Things, that are then to come
 to pass, in Mal. 4. 2. He shall sweep to cleanse
 unto the End of the Earth, He breaks the Bow, &
 cuts the Spear in futility, He burns the Chariot in
 Fire. And will not the Swords go with them,
 think you? It is a Sabbath, a Long, & a great
 Sabbath, which the World shall then arrive upon;
 and as of old, no Fire was to be kindled on
 the Sabbath, so all Fire, that is, all war is to be
 now Extinguished. There shall then be no Ar-
 mies, nor Churches, and there shall be no Swords,
 no Spears, worn by the Saints in the Approach-
 ing Age. There will be no Artilleries but Hel-
 lings used among the Nations that shall walk
 in the Light of the New Jerusalem; nor will
 Talents then be the study of Ingenious men.
 It is foretold concerning this Time, in Mal. 1. 6.
 The wolf shall dwell with the Lamb. Which
 whether or so it shall, (as why may it not?
 Every act of Obedience to it) be fulfilled in
 a Natural Sense, will doubtless be fulfilled in a
 Spiritual Sense; it shall no more be said, That
 the wolf is a wolf to devour; nor shall we be so
 much more than Devils as to devour the
 Children of our own kind any more. Even an
 Angel from above the Firmament of our Saviour
 shall come forth from the Right of our Father
 and we shall have a Time in which
 we shall be as Angels in our own Land.

There is a great deal of more to be said in
 this Subject, & a Powerful Truth of God upon the

the Spirits of men in all Corners of the World; will cause them to Agree in that One Business, in Zeph^h 3. 8, 9 They shall call upon His Name, and Serve Him, with One consent. Certainly, there will be no Fighting, when men shall all have One Consent for the Service of God among them. The Pagan Historian, relates concerning the Time of our Lords First coming, That there was then, *Totius Orbis una Pax, aut Pax*; a Peace, or at least a Truce among all the Nations; but a far greater thing of that kind will be brought about, at the Day, which from Luke 17. 32. I feel cause to call, *The First of the Days of the Son of man*. This *Iron Age* will then be over; and such *Iron Things* as our Swords and Spears, will not Survive it.

II. But then let us in the next place Enquire, *WHENCE*, will arise that State of Peace, which will thus take away all Occasion to *Learn War any more?*

'Tis possible that the Princip^l Characters, which may have a Tendency to make this Happy State so *Feasible*, may be but *Suspicious Characters*, in the Opinions of many among the People of God. If you will believe such men as *Judas Maccabaeus*, who flourished in the second Century; yes, or *Herod*, the Scholar of *Pythagoras*] It is very certain, That some things concerning the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus, were Embraced in the Primitive Times, by all the *Orthodox*, which were *Forgotten*, and perhaps *Forfeited*, when the Kingdom of *Antichrist* came upon the Stage; nor will they be well understood and Received, until that *Wicked One* be *Unmasked*, & by the Days of the Day when

in the *Son of Righteousness* will Rise unto them that fear His Name. I shall therefore forbear all things that may be doubtful to any one Discreet and Sober person among us; unless, as we read in *Math. 24. 3.* *The Disciples came privately to ask about, The End of the world.* And I shall further-more forwarn all Persons to beware of all such conceptions about the Kingdom of our Lord, as may Interfere with His continual *Intercession*, or any of those Glorious Designs which He is Ascended into Heaven upon; and of all such Conceptions as may carry a Sensual Aspect with them, or Provide a *Ceristian* and *Mahometan* paradise for the *Resurrection of the Just*. But I shall now mention only a few Unquestionable Characters of the State now hastening upon us; all of which will contribute unto the Peace thereof.

First, The Peace of the *Letter Days* will flow from the marvellous Holiness, and Righteousness of those Days. The Apostle has truly Determined it, in *Jam. 4. 1.* *From whence come wars and Brawls among you? Come they not hence, Even of your Lusts?* The Lusts of Covetous, Ambitious, Revengful Men, are those things that now set them together by the Ears. That French Firebrand that has of late years kept almost all Europe in a flame of War, had so little Modesty as to Own in One of his Declarations, That the *Glory of Empire was the Motive of his undertakings*. Truly, some such Lusts is the unhappy Original of Every War; But in the *Last Days*, every such Lust, will be Restrained with more powerful Cords than these Our Days afford. We are assur'd in *Zech. 14. 20.*

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In that Day, there shall be upon the Bridles of the Horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD.** It seems that men shall then Consecrate all that they are, and all that they have, unto the Service of God; Every place will Swarm with such Hol, men, as will be always performing of Obedience unto God themselves, and Exciting all others to that Obedience. Ezekiel's Temple will then be built among the Nations; which Temple, will be Holiness of Holinesses, that is, most Superlatively Holy. You cannot imagine that any Troops will then be Raised for the Mischief of mankind, when the very Bridles of the Horses will be mark'd with Holiness to the Lord. Holiness it self will then indeed be the Bridle of the World. When once men are Pure, they will then be, as we learn from Jam. 3. 17. Peaceable Gentle, Easy to be Entreated full of mercy and Good Fruits without wrangling and without Hypocrisy. And we are also assur'd in Isa. 60. 21. Thy People also shall be all Righteous. It seems they shall then be ready to yield one another, all that is Right; and neither in Expressions nor in Affections be prone to wrong one another. There will then be that New Earth, whereof both Esay and Peter tell us, Therein shall dwell Righteousness. Wherefore, if there should then be (though I know not there will be) any men of unpeaceable Dispositions, they will not be so many or so mighty as to break the Common Tranquillity; nor will their Sparks find combustible matter to feed upon. We have been advis'd, in Isa. 60. 22. The Work of Righteousness shall be Peace, and the Effect of Righteousness, Quietness and Assurance. In those Days, will God bless the World with

a plentiful and Gracious Effusion of His own Blessed Spirit, as we have never hitherto seen any more, than some little Prelibitions of : [See Zechar. 12. 8.] It is Predicted in Joel 2. 28. *I will pour out my Spirit upon all Flesh in those Days.* When this had a Partial Fulfilment upon a little Knot of men, in the Old Jerusalem above Sixteen Hundred year ago, What was the Effect of it ? We find, in Act. 2. 46 *They continued Daily with One Accord in the Temple, and they did Eat their Meat with Singleness of Heart.* But you are to Look for a further, a greater Fulfilment of this Word in the New Jerusalem ; even in the Days that are now at hand ; Blessed Spirit, That thou wouldst Repeal the Heart's, and come down unto us ! And when the Spirit of God ha's taken Possession of the World, you may Easily Suppose, that men will be of *One Accord*, and that men will have but *One Heart*, among them. When there shall be no Evident and Outrageous Fighting against the God of Heaven in the World, He will no then Plague us, as for That Cause He now doth, with wars among our selves. We shall see the Hundred and First Psalm very eminently Exemplify'd, in the Government of our Blessed Jesus ; and when all the wicked are Extirpated from the City of God, what can there be to discompose the Peace of that City ?

Secondly, There is like to be Peace in the Last Days, because in those Days, the great Inordinaries of the World, will be taken out of the way. As now, 'Tis the Devil that is the Disturber of the World ; if you would know, what is the Reason, that men can't let one another be quiet, it is, in Short, *Because the Devil is in them.*

The.

The Diabol is that monstrous *Volcan* out of whose Bores our *Swords* and *Spears* were at first Educ'd ; though we must now have them in our hands to put by his Passes at us. The same Diabol that makes *Damniacks* to tear and cut themselves, do's also cause men to Wound one another ; and the same Diabol that sometimes do's make *Storms* in the *Air*, do's also make *Wars* on the *Earth*. As in *Rev. 12. 17.* We read of, *A War*, of which the *Dragon* was the Enkindler ; so there is indeed no *War*, which the *Dragon* is not the first Author and Kaiser of. The Diabol is a most Bloody Destroyer, and Envy's unto us, all the Comfort of our Peace ; hence there is rarely any *Distraction*, which this *Angel of Death* ha's not some Concernment in. There is no *War*, for the most part, which ha's not some *Injustice* on one side giving Rise unto it ; now it may still be said, *There is the Hand of Satan there !* Who was it that once Provoked the *Numbering* of the People ? *Satan* did it ; and it is he that Provokes the *Wrasting* of the People still ; it is an unutterable Satisfaction unto *Satan* to receive some Thousands of poor Souls falling into his greedy hands in one Morning from one Cruel and Crimson Spot of Ground ! Such *Meats* do our *Wars* often feast the *Dragons* with. But in the *Last Days*, the Diabol shall be confin'd unto a closer and a darker *Dungeon*, than that in which he ha's been hitherto Imprisoned. We find in *Rev. 12. 1, 2.* Our Lord Jesus then Comes down from Heaven, having a Great Chain in his hand ; and He lays hold on the *Dragon*, that *Old Serpent*, which is the Diabol and *Satan*, and binds him : So that the Diabol shall then be kept under a Shorter Chain, and the *Raging Lion* shall

not then, as he do's, now, Go about seeking when he may drown. He shall then, with his Angels, be in those more Exquisite, Everlasting Chains and Darken's, for which they are now Reserved; and it shall then be the Time of their Torment, not of their waking, nor of their clearing, nor of their Empire still. It upon shutting up the King of Babylon, that Incessant Embroider of mankind in his Gravel, it was said, The whole Earth is now at Rest, and is Quiet, how much more will that be said, when Satan himself is thrown down into the Pit. When the God of Peace will shortly tread Satan under our Feet, we cannot but have The Peace of God.

Again, The Devils Eldest Son, that is, The Son of Sin, is the Grand Beasts of the Universe. It is the Sea of Rour that hath shed more than a Sea of Blood, by the wars which it hath more than an Hundred times Posh'd the Nations of the World upon. We see an horrible Beast pourtray'd in Rev. 13. 7 And (it is added) it was given unto him to make war with the Saints, and to overcome them. The Blessed Waldenses of old, made that Scripture their Support, when the Popish, horrid, insidious Croisades were published against them. A great part of the war in the World, is but for the Persecution of them that own the Truth and Wayes of the Lord Jesus Christ; now there ha's not for more than this Thousand years been many such Persecutions upon the Followers of the Lamb, wherein some Horns, or some Limb of that Ravenous Beast ha's not been concerned. The most of the Swords and Spears in the World, have been hammer'd out of those Hellish Kyer, which the Pope carries in his Hands.

The

The Terror of the Popish *Armageddons*, or Excommunications, is that which ha's driven Millions of men to such Battles, as they have perished in. But in the *Last Dayes*, that *Son of Perdition* shall go into *Perdition* intended for him. It won't be long, before all the Corners of the Earth will ring with the *Echo's* of that thing in *Rev. 12. 2.* *An Angel, crying mightily with a Strong Voice, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.* All men will shortly Disdain and Refuse the *Cup of Abominations*, tendered by the Church of *Rome*; and be no more Inebriated and Insatuated with her *Bigotries*. All the Orders of the *Romish Clergy* shall then be Hiss'd out of Humane Conversation; and particularly, the *Ignatian Fiery Brood*, which do's Finish and complete them all, shall then be Extinct for ever. That City which now Scatters *Fire-balls* about the World, shall be laid wholly Desolate, by such an *Horrible Tempest*, as that wherein *Sodom* was overwhelmed of old; and in the *Ashes* of the Papacy will be buried most of those Brangles which now set more than all *Europe* in a flame. Be sure, there shall then be no Consistory of *Cardinals* to give Thanks, for the Massacre of Thirty Thousand Protestants in *France*, and for the Butchery of two Hundred Thousand in *Ireland*, as they did some years ago; nor shall there be a Popish *Alto* to brag, that in the space of one Six years he had Executed Eighteen Thousand people, by the Ordinary Minister of Justice, besides a Million other Butcheries. Thus that Monster of whom the Spirit Expressly Speaks [compare 1 Tim. 4. 1. with Dan. 11. 36, 37; 12. 39.] under the person of *Antiochus*, who is now continually Going forth with great Fury, to Destroy, and utter

at such a way may, shall be sent to his aid, and
shall help him. And if we have seen him
strangely to miscarry in a strong and warm en-
deavour, so plant (what power so more De-
votion than) a Tabernacle, in a Country that
may be called, A glorious City, surrounded
with the Jews, it will further argue his immediate
Coming to his Aid.

Finally, Who are they that break the Peace
of the World, more than the Bad Rulers of it?
They are the Tyrants of the world, that cor-
rupt and poison their Subjects with such evil
manners, as bring the Vengeance of war upon
them; and the Curious, and Ringers of laugh-
ter, who do further Precipitate their mis-
fortune into such confusion. But in the Last
Age, there shall be only God his Entrusted
Governor of this Neighbour-hood.
And thus it is Granted, That the Lord Jesus
Christ, the World shall be well Ruled,
and the Peace of it like His own glorious
Kingdom; as we read in Mat. 24. 14. At that
Time shall the Kingdom of Peace be in Jerusalem,
and the Kingdom that shall be the Peace
of the Lord Jesus in His Kingdom shall
be the World in Righteousness, and the Peace shall
be the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus among the Nations.
And thus it is Granted, That the Lord Jesus
shall bring Peace to the People; and the Little
shall be the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.
There shall then be no
more of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus, and no Little
of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus, but what shall
be a Kingdom of God, and Oh what Peace will the
World be then brought into! The full year,
shall

what it is that will then blunt all our Swords, and Spears; The Lord Jesus has promised unto the Saints, in Rev. 2. 27. They shall Rule the Nations with a Rod of Iron. Those Rods of Iron, will Nullify our Swords and Spears for us; As yet it is a Rare Thing to sit under a Good Government; but the Last Words of David have given us Notice, in 2 Sam. 23. 3. 4. [but for I read them] There shall be a Ruler over us, Righteous, Ruling in the fear of God — though as yet He made them not to spring up. Then shall the Peace of the World be a Peace that none shall interrupt. — Yea, There will be the Peace of the Saints. — *Alas! Future Latency of Good Gulls*

Reading carefully, Mal. 1. 2. and Mal. 2. 27. and Mark 4. 9.

III. We shall then in the Last place Enquire, *What it shall mean for that Host of Fools, which will make it needless for them to Long for any more?*

It must be Confessed, That many Nations then have mistaken in their Conclusions about the Approaches of this Possible Service. But the mistakes which they fall into, may rather Advancing us, than Discouraging us, and prove so many Good Means to prevent our Shipwreck. Nor is it any Presumption for us to make our Humble & Weak Comparison of the Times; Inasmuch as the Lord Jesus Christ has given us a Revelation of them; wherein are Disclosed Good things which before His Ascension were concealed from all mankind; and wherein He hath did more in, Let Him that hath wisdom, trust the Number.

Lord.

Indeed while the Church had yet some Ages to
 ly broiling in that Sea of Ice and Fire, wherein,
 though they were tormented with a Fire of Miseries,
 yet cruel and heavy Flakes of Ice over their Heads
 made it impossible for them, to get out of those
 miseries, it was the mercy of God unto His peo-
 ple, that they did not so clearly understand,
How Long : It would have broke the Hearts of
 them, to have Thought, *How Long*, they were to
 ly under their Oppressions, and how many of their
 Twelve hundred and Sixty years, yet remained
 for their Sufferings. But according to the Order
 of the Angel in Rev. 22. 10. Seal not the sayings of
 the Prophecy of this Book for the Time is at hand ; for
 the nearer that the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus is
 at hand, the more unfolded, Unfolded, Explained,
 will be the Sayings of the Prophecy. Those of you,
 that count it your wisdom to scoff and Scoff at all
 Endeavours to find, what Article is the Line of
 Time we are upon, are very unthankful to the
 Lord Jesus, for the Letter which He sent unto us
 from Heaven a while ago, to advise us about the
 Times and Seasons, which had hitherto been only
 in the Power of the Father : And you forget that
 solemn Rebuke of our Saviour to them of old, in
 Math. 24. 5. O ye Hypocrites, Can't ye Discern the
 Signs of the Times ? The Impire of the Repro-
 bation : If they had not been fast Asleep, their
 Calculations might have taught them, That the
 Twenty years, or the Four hundred and Ninety
 years, professed by Daniel for the Appearance of
 the Messiah were well nigh Expired : but it was
 their Hypocrisy that made them Careless and List-
 less in their Studies about the Times. Men pre-
 tend, That the Knowledge of the Time is the Pro-
 rogative

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negative of God alone; and that His word is not plain Enough to give them Information; and that it is not much for our Edification to Search after the sense of His word in such manner, and so they neglect all Enquiries after the Truth that are yet behind, in the Glass of Time; when something else lyes at the bottom; this was a great Hypocrisy!

Wherefore I shall do what is pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ. If at this time, I make some Supposals about the Advances of the time, when war shall be Last's no more. Supposals I call them, because I think I should be very Mistakn, and Humble, so far as it too much, in making them.

The first supposal.

A Contrary and a Terrible Apparition of Things in the World, is, no certain Sign, that our Blessed State of Peace, is far Distance from us. Though we see nothing but Swords and Spears in all hands, and nothing but Murders, Burnings, and Slaughters, in every Country: this it's an infallibly signe, There shall be nothing but war is our Days. It is foretold, with reference to the Days, wherein they shall not have war no more: Is Day no more. Your Bell is a Thundring Bell, like as never was. For there was a Noise ever to that same Time, and as that time the People shall be Delivered. For then, the Blessing you see the Thunders of the Age to grow the fiercer and the greater may be the Peace which are hoping for. What though I say have a Knife, which was had to a Sword or a Spear.

his Throat; One Minnure may set all to rights again. Pray then, let it not fright you to be in such a *About*! The Almighty God usually chooses to make a *Dismal Tragedy*, wherein all men shall be overwhelmed with Desperation and Astonishment; but all on the sudden, He descends from the *Mablis* of Heaven to put a New, Joyful, Pleasant Face upon it all; and as tis said in Deut. 32. 16. *The Lord shall Judge His people, and Repent Him, for His Servants, when He sees their strength is gone, and there is none that up or sett.* The unusual *Agonies* of war, and horrible Tumult, now in the World, may only prove that Crisis, immediately upon which we may Enter into Rest. It is a remarkable Prediction, in Zech. 14. 6, 7. *It shall come to pass, in that Day, that the Light shall not be clear nor dark; it seems we are to see a Cloudy, Gloomy, Stormy Day; but now the Evening of this day! One would look for nothing save Thick Darkness in the Evening, if the Day had been Scarce Twilight; No, but it follows, At that Evening Time it shall be Light.* Well then, suppose we are now getting towards the Evening of a *Woful Day*; Suppose the *Catholics* never so Potent, and suppose the *Reformed* never so Feeble, all at once, in one years Time you may see a Turn, that shall make you say with Amazement of Soul, *O Lord, Thou dost Terrible Things, which we looked not for!* When a Prince not unknown unto us, had the Security to say in one of his Declarations, *That there was now nothing left which could give any future Disturbance unto his King,* the great God with in a few Months, brought those prodigious Hurricanes upon his Kingdoms, which the whole World is justly surprised at. No

Englishman

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Englishman do's need me to tell him, That God can in fewer *Weeks* undo all that men have been many years plotting and Framing of. There is nothing, which doth so much Threaten to disorder our Peace, as the want of *Preparation* for it, in the Hearts and Lives of men, and the Extreme *Corruption* of the World. But you Remember that all the *Heathenism* and *Frowardness* of *Israel* could not keep them in *Egypt* when once their *four hundred and thirty years* were out; we find, *The self same Day it came to pass*; and yet a few *Days* before, neither God nor man could be heard among them. When God shall give Order for introducing the Age of Peace into the World, He says, in *Jerl 3. 13.* *Put ye in the Sickle, for the Harvest is Ripe.* When God sees that His Adversaries are grown *Ripe* in all their High-handed Abominations, and *Ripe* as to their being Incorrigible and Impenitent after all the means of cure upon them; Hee'll then give Peace to His unsanctified people, by the Destruction of those Adversaries, and make this Peace to be the mean of Sanctifying them. *Not for your sake, but for my Holy Names sake, do I this, saith the Lord God.* Consider, *Lia. 66. 7, 8.* and *Rev. 18. 8, 10.*

The second SUPPOSAL.

The Period of the *Papacy* seems to be at the Door; and our Blessed State of Peace, will then be quickly Introduced. The Peaceable Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, ha's ever now and then begun a little to show it self; it begun to Open a little in several Instances during the Primitive Times, especially at the Abolition of *Pagan*

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In the Days of the great Constantine : but still there was a Seal clap'd upon it, because the Kingdom of Antichrist must first come in play, which is to abide, as Daniel tells us, *until the Time come, that the Saints possess the Kingdom*. Then Farewel Swords, Farewel Spears, Farewel all the Instruments of Death ! Wars are at an end. Well, There is ground for Hope that the Reign and Rage of Antichrist is within a very little while of that End, which we are all wishing thereunto. We do not want for Demonstration, That the Pope of Rome is the Antichrist : Indeed, the Word, Antichrist most properly and Exactly signifies, *The Vice of Christ* ; If one would say in good Greek, *The Vice of Christ*, no fitter Term could be used, than, that of Antichrist ; so that, *Ex ists* : the Pope unawares proclaims himself to be Antichrist, while he calls himself, *The Vice of Christ* [see the Form of Speaking, in the Greek Text, of *Act. 13. 7.*] Now is more than Once or Twice, declared unto us, That the Duration of the Antichristian Empire is to be but for Twelve hundred and Sixty years. If therefore we can tell when to begin those Twelve hundred and Sixty years, we may guess when to conclude them without any Difficulty. And now, its admirable that no man Notice has been taken of that perspicuous Epoch, in *Rev. 17. 12*. The Ten Horns which thou sawest are Ten Kings, which have Received no Kingdom as yet, but Receive power as Kings one Hour with the Beast ; the meaning of which is thus much ; when you see Ten Sovereign Kings appearing in the Roman Empire, you may take it for granted, that the Power of Antichrist is fully Commenc'd. Now all men know, that in the

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the fourth and fifth Century, the Barbarous Nation made their Violent Assaults and Inroads upon the Roman Empire, and more than Once they dreadfully Sack'd the City of Rome it self; these Desolations of the Roman Empire Invited and Obliged Several Kingdoms in the bowels thereof to set up for themselves; of which by the year Four Hundred and Fifty Six at furthest, there was the Number of Ten Completed. No less punctual and positive are the words of the Apostle Paul, in 2 Thes. 2. 7. 8. *He who now binds, will bind, until he be taken out of the way, and then shall that wicked one be Revealed.* Commentators both Ancient and Modern generally Agree, that the Imperial and Heathenish power flourishing at Rome, was that which hindered the Revelation of Antichrist; when therefore you see that the Roman Empire was broken to pieces, and that a Little Priest had opportunity to Establish himself with a mixt Religion among the Barbarous Nations, you may be sure The wicked One was come upon the Stage. Hence when old Jerome had the Report brought him, That Rome was taken by the Goths, he cry'd out, *He that hindered is now taken out of the way, and we consider not, that Antichrist is at hand.* If then from thence you reckon Twelve hundred and Sixty years, you may see cause to think, that whoever now Lives Twenty Five years more in the World, will see a more Terrible Mortification befalling of Antichrist, than he has ever yet met withal.

To confirm us in this Account of Time, there is a most Harm nious Concurrence of Providences in the Reformation, an Age and half ago. You

TO EXPECTAND A ; Or,
know that the Duration of Antichrist is adjusted
by Time, Tides, and half a Time ; that is, by
Three years and as half, which contain Twelve
hundred and Sixty Days. Now the Time, and
the Times of Antichrist seem to have been so
Run out, that he seems to enter his last Half
Time at that famous Reformation ; there is a
Coincidence of a thousand things besides, to
remove this Apprehension. Well then, Date
the Reformation from the year Fiftye hundred
and Sixtye, or ten years after, if you will ;
the Half-Time of Antichrist, you know must be
about an Hundred and fourscore years ; and this
again makes the Business to be Reasonably and
Seasonably Look'd-for within a Score of years.
And that which yet further fortifies this Con-
jecture is, that in Rev 14 15. 16. There are two
Harvests taken for the Abolishing of Antichrist ; there
is first an Harvest, and then a Vintage. Our Lord
had a mighty Harvest of Churches, gathered out
of the Papal Empire, at the Celebrated Reforma-
tion. But the Harvest leaves work for the Vin-
tage, which always comes about a Score of years
of the year after it. Now the Vintage part of the
Twelve hundred and Sixty years, which constitute
the Grand year of Antichrist, is just an Hundred
and fourscore years ; wherefore about so many
years from the Reformation, that is, within a Score
of years, its possible we may see Popery cast
into the great wine-press of the Wrath of God.
Behold, how all things Conspire to tell us con-
cerning the Day of the Divine Revenues upon
Antichrist, as in Zeph. 1-14. The great Day of
the Lord is near. It is near, and hasteth greatly ;
the Place of the Day of the Lord, there shall
be.

The mighty man cry bitterly. I do not indeed fix the very Year of Antichrists downfall; and you also know, That Rome was not built in a Day; but I am verily perswaded, A great part of this Assembly may live to see those Blowes given to the man of Sin, that shall be more Mortal more painful Blowes, then any that have yet been given him.

Tis not unlikely, that after the next fatal Blowes upon Antichrist the Perfect Peace of the Church may Require some Time for the settling of it. But yet, be of Good Cheer, It comes at last.

The third SUPPOSAL.

There seem to be some Symptoms, upon the Turkish Empire, that speak hopefully about our Blessed State of Peace, and say, It will come quickly. There are Seven most Memorable Dispensations of Judgment upon the Roman Empire, which are to make way for the Peaceable Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ; and these are Exhibited unto us, under the Notion of so many Trumpets, all sounding like the Trumpets for Seven Dayes about Jericho of old, until the fall of Babel. The Three last of these, are called, *the* Trumpets, as being more *fatal* to the Roman Empire, than the rest; and upon the last of all it is proclaimed, The Kingdoms of this world, are become the Kingdoms, of our Lord, and of His Christ; Then we shall have done with our Swords and Spears. Wars with Wars will all be gone: Well, you cannot but allow me, with all sensible Interpreters, that the second *the* Trumpet is the Turkish Empire; which began to play its Music upon

the *Roman Empire* in the Tenth and Eleventh Century, and at last between the years Fourteen and Fifteen hundred, seiz'd *Constantinople* it self into its hands. All those Execrable *Plunderers* whom we call, *Conquerors*, from the beginning of the World, have hardly shed such Rivers of Blood, as these woful *Turks* have done. But how long must this game hold? There seems to be a Term allotted for them, in Rev. 9. 14, 15. Loose the Four Angels, which are bound in the great River *Euphrates*; and the four Angels were loosed, which were prepared for an Hour, and a Day, and a Month, and a Year, to slay the Third part of men.

There were four *Sultanies*, or Kingdoms of *Turks*, hovering about the River *Euphrates*; until they all united in the one *Ottoman* family, under which, by the Year Thirteen hundred, they were making themselves a formidable *spo* to the *Roman Empire*. Now cast up, an Hour, a little space for preparation; a Day, that is one year; a Month, which is Thirty years; and a Year, which comes to Three hundred and Sixty five [or perhaps, but Sixty] years; according to the *Prophetical Cypher of Dates for Years*; and one would Suspect, that within less than Seven Years from this Time, the *Turk* should be under such *Humiliations*, as might Obstruct his ever giving *Europe* Trouble any more. If we should shortly hear of a general *Peace* or *Truce* with him, it would add unto our *Probabilities*. 'Tis also a matter of some *Reflection* that the Number Four is *Mystical* in the *Mahometan Religion*, as the Number Seven was in the *Jewish*; almost all considerable things, have been terminated in Four among the *Turks*; and it is moreover frequent
for

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for *Empires* to finish in the same Name that they began withal. This had further blown up the hopes of some, when they lately saw one having the Name of *Mahomet*, and the *Fourth* of that Name too, upon the Turkish Throne that the *Mahometan Empire* must be near its end. But let this Fancy pass only for one *Little Pill* in the Foundation, upon which we would build our *Progressions* upon the *Second* *its passing away*; though who can tell what the late *Convulsions* which deposed that *Grand Signior* may work unto? And then what follows? 'Tis added, *Behold, the Third* *its coming quickly*! Now that we will be *Peace* to the People of God; this *Trumpet* will blow at length all *Wars* out of the World. 'Tis may not be unpleasant for those of you, that have *Guns* in your hands this Day, to Remark, what Note the Scripture here sets upon the first Use of *Guns*. When the *Arms* of the *Turks* are here describing, 'tis said, *Out of their Mouths Issued Fire and Smoke and Brimstone*; it refers to *Gun-powder* which was Invented not long before the Taking of *Constantinople*, where't a most Extraordinary use was made of it. But when the *Turks* are once marched off, we shall *Quickly* see those things that will cause us to bear our *Guns*, as well as the *Swords* and *Spears* about us, into things of another Shape. It may overwhelm us with Admiration, to Look upon the *Vast Sect* lately Risen among the *Mahometans*, who give such a Reception unto the Principal Articles of the *Christian Religion*, that a Step or two further, would render them far better *Christians*, than some Nations that make a part of what we distinguish by the Name of *Christianity*. It is particularly

Con-

Considerable, That multitudes of People among the *Turks*, are lately come to hold, That *Christ* is God; and the Redeemer of the World; Yea, to hold this Doctrine with so much Resolution, as to choose Martyrdom rather than to quit it. These are called among them, The good followers of the *Messiah*; and the more learned and Civil of the *Turks* do now so much fall in with these *Chap Messahites* (as they style 'em) that when they would commend a Person, they put that Name upon him. Behold yet another Prognostic of dying *Mahometanism*! Should the Interest of *Christianity* prevail a little further there, who can tell what Events would come quickly thereupon!

The last SUPPOSAL.

Finally, what is there to say for? Have we not seen already Fulfilled, Most, if not All, of those things, which are to precede the Happy State of Peace, that is to come?

In general, 'Tis both by *Moses* and by *Peter*, with a sufficient plainness intimated, That the Six Days wherein the World was making, were a Type of the Six thousand years, after which the Church is to enjoy a Blessed Sabbathism. Our Lord has told us, that these Days, or Years of Tribulation, shall be shortened for the sake of the Elect; and the more particular Prophecies and Oracles of the Bible, seem to have contain'd that long line of later-Sabbatical Time, some Hundreds of years. We then, that have good cause to count our selves gotten at least Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy Eight Years forward upon

upon that *Like*, may surely *Lift up our Heads!*

But that which adds to our Satisfaction is, The Dispatch that has been made of those things that are to make way, for the Kingdom of our Lord. We have a *Line of Time*, in the Revelation, drawn from the Resurrection of our Lord, unto that Kingdom, wherein He will give Peace unto us; and a full Commentary upon what had been said by *Daniel* about the Fourth Monarchy. First, There were Seven Seals, or Stops upon that Kingdom, all of which we have seen Opened, so, that the Kingdom, would have come, if there had not then been a Mock-Kingdom to get the start of it. At the opening of the First Seal, we have seen a warrior come from the East; namely, *Vespasian* [and *Titus*] who was in the East, when proclaimed Emperor; he had but a Bow, and his Horse was white; because the War in his Time did not so much afflict the Empire; nevertheless, he conquered *Judea*, and Christianity was Established by the Conquest, which he made upon the Jewish Temple and Worship. At the opening of the Second Seal, we have seen a warrior, come from the West; namely, *Trajan* [and *Adrian*] a Native of Spain, which is in the West; he had a Red Horse, and a great Sword, because of the Cruel and Civil Wars in his Time; occasion'd especially by the general Revolt of the Jews, who butchered Six hundred Thousand persons in the first Outrage of their Fury, and were not subdued without the slaughter of more than Two Million People. At the opening of the Third Seal, we have seen a warrior come from the South; namely, *Severus* [and *Alexander*] who was of *Africa*, which

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is a Northern Original; he had a Black Horse, with Banners, and Orders about Cars and O's, and was; because of the Solemn Imperial Festival which then took place; for never were such as Prince Thors more Exemplarily punished, than in those Reigns; and admirable Banners about Cars and Wines and O's, were then also most Literally emitted unto the World. At the opening of the Fourth Seal, we have seen, a Warrior come from the North; namely Maximilian [to Amelia] who was of a Thracian, which is a Northern Original; he had a Pale Horse, with Drail, Consequences of Sword, Hunger, Death, and wild beasts, because, this Tyrant perpetrated the most Bloody Cruelties upon all Sorts of People; he was a Devil of a man, and just after him came another Tygre, who oftentimes would Cut the Throats of three or four thousand in a Day. The Barbarians in the East also then made hideous havocks; there came likewise an Universal Famine; a wasting Plague raged every where for fifteen years together; at last, no less than Thirty Tyrants together, fell to shedding of Blood, through the Extent of the Empire. At the opening of the Fifth Seal, we have seen Souls under the Altar; and a most horrid Persecution, managed by Dioclesian, and them that follow'd him; a Persecution which lasted in its Heat for 2 years together; a Persecution, which, for a Specimen of his Bloodiness, in one Countrey (that of Egypt) Massacred an Hundred and forty four Thousand men, a Persecution in which they prevail'd so far, that they set up their Triumphal Pillars, with a Superstitious Christiana Dialect, upon them; and from whence

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whence came the *Mrs. Mary*, so famous in the Church of God. At the last, we have seen the opening of the Sixth Seal, which produced the fall of *Papacy* in the days of *Constantine*; to the days of *Thomas*. Here was an Earth-quake that chang'd the face of all Affayes; here the Devil, and his Religion, and his Priests, were Eclipsed, and fell to the Ground; here were the Temples and Idols of Heathenism wred out of their places; here could one have seen the Invisible Empire of the *Demon*, one might have beheld all the Rights of a terrible conformation. In a word, here was a Type of what is to be in the Fall of *Papery*, at the coming of our Lord. In the Seventh Seal, we should have now seen the Peaceable Kingdom of our Bless'd Jesus, of many confounding Judgments, upon the Adversaries of that Kingdom; but the Servants of God in the New Jerusalem had still a Seal upon them. The Christian Superstitions afforded a Disguise for the Antichrist which was now to rise and when the City of Rome had been more than Twelve hundred years computing, *Ab nunc Cauda*, now the Empire breaking into Ten Kingdoms, this Dominable City continues another like Sovereign under another Lord. Antichrist was Created as early as Twenty five years after the Ascension of our Lord; the Apostles give Notice of him; and there was the Root of his Ruin; and, by the way, tis all wonder, to see how that Number is ev'ry where Sacred in the Church of Rome. Antichrist was Completed about Six hundred and Sixty years after that, when the Image worship was pressed by his wicked *Nicholas*, with the Ruine of such *Lysistrata's* Empyrous as refused it. But between these Terms,

EXPECTANDA; Or,

we might see *Marickist* Reigning in the World at such a Rate, as that, although it ha's been an usual thing for him to Date his Writings, *Agains Christ*, yet our Lord Jesus Christ is kept out of his Kingdom by his Insolencies. Wherefore upon the Seventh Seal, we have Seven Trumpets, all sounding the alarms of the Divine vengeance against the World, for their continued Indisposition to the Kingdom of our Lord. The Blood of the *Martyrs* formerly shed, and the Antichristian Superstitions in worship, and Impurities in Conscience, already set forth among the Christians, loudly called for further Vengeance. At the First of the Trumpets, we have seen an *Hail Storm* of Bloody Geths, invading the Roman Empire, until *Alaricus* took and sacked the City of Rome it self; they Rush'd on suddenly, in every where carried Blood and Fire with them. These Invasions fell upon the *Italian* Division, which was the Third of the *Profectures* that the Empire had been divided into. And it is a little Surprising, that the Gothic Troubles both began and ended, with a Natural *Hail Storm*, which *Historians* tell us, was the Afflictment of the World. At the Second of the Trumpets, we have seen a great Foundation of the Barbarians upon the Transalpine parts of the Roman Empire, until the whole Prefecture of Gaul, another Third of the Empire, fell into the hands of the Invaders. The whole *Mediterranean* cast into a Sea of Blood; the Empire wretchedly lost its Possession and Integrity. At the Third of the Trumpets, we have seen the Principal Upholder, and as it were, the Head and Tail, of the Roman Empire falling; which, the Barbarians, though they left off *Execution*, yet they kept the Roman *Provincias*, in

a most bitter Servitude; all was worn out that they liv'd upon. The fall of the Bishop of Rome into a Carnal and Earthly Temper, was also notable at this Time. *Gregory* the great, particularly now writes of himself. *Alas, I am outwardly Advanced, but inwardly Fallen!* under Colour of a Bishoprick, I am sunk into the world. At the Fourth of the Trumpets, we have seen the Sun and Moon and Stars in the Roman Empire Darken'd by the Ceasing of the Imperial Government in the West. It was Extinguished in the Year 455, when *Gensericus* made himself Master of Rome, and Plundered it for Fifteen Dayes together. By this Time, *Antichrist* is got into this Throne; from whence *Three Trumpets* more will fetch him down forever. The *Eastern Emperor* holding Correspondence with the Bishop of Rome, Contributed his utmost Assistance to *Aggrandize* and so to *Antichristianize* that Bishop. In hopes thereby at length to Recover his *Western Empire*; and the Treasons now committed against the Kingdoms of the Lord Jesus, made men ripe for the last *Four Trumpets* of His Judgment and Indignation. The First of those *Four Trumpets* brought Plague of Locusts upon the Earth; to which Perhaps, the spirit of Prophecy in *Jud.* had a Bye many Ages before. From the State of Ignorance and Blasphemy now in the World, *Calixtus*, a Slave Actually possessed by the Devil, took Occasion with the Assistance of a Monk, to Fabricate a *New Antichristianism*, in the East, intended for the Derision and Vexation of others then Rising in the West. Both Jews and Gentiles were to undergo a particular Oppression under his Tyranny; and therefore the Names of

of *Abaddon* and of *Apollyon*, were put upon him: His followers, called *Saracens*, were *Arabians*, and therefore most fitly called *Lacusts*; inasmuch as *Arabis* do's use to afford such Insects; and the Hebrew word *Arbin*, or *Arpin*, well enough points to *Arabians*, as well as it signifies, *Harpies*, the Poet *Virgil's* description of which, is here after a fore Repeated, by *Jeha*, in his describing of these *Arabians*. These, as they had *Crowns* on their Heads because all the Empires that had this Day taken up the East came from them; so they had *Stings* in their Tails, inflicting and infusing the Vengeance of a *P. l's* Religion where they came; and One like *Plato* (whom the *Phoenicians* call'd, *Scorpius*, or Prince of the *Lacusts*) was a King over them. This Eastern *Mock-Antichrist* is shortly to come owner of *New Rome*, while *Old-Rome* remain'd in the hands of the Western; both of them aspire to the possession of *Jerusalem*, as having the promise of the Universal Monarchy; both of them agree to flatter the Kingdom of our Lord *Jesus*; but the former gave all manner of Lingring Torments to the latter, for diverse times Five Months, which used to be the Summer Duration of the *Locusts*; especially, to that Third part of the Empire which was in the *Orient*, where the *Antichristian*ions of *Antichristianism* were obstinately committed by the *Græcian* Provinces, which have not yet so Revolted from *Antichrist*, but that he ha's his Influences on them as well as Pretensions to them. Well, a while after ensued the Second of the *10. Trumpets*, which produc'd the Irruptions of the *Turks*, the Successors of the *Saracens*, upon the Empire. Four *Saltiers*, or Kingdoms of them, were killed about *Euphrates*; but as last uniting,

winning under one Sovereign, they have ever since prov'd such a Plague unto the Antichristian World, as it has never seen before. They were Originally such, as had none but *Horsemen* in their Armies; and *Egiptians* that Vomit out Sulphurean Powder, Fire and Smoke, were those by which they Kill'd us, and shed more Blood than all that had been in the World before them. 'Twas indeed, a most Allusive thing to call them *Horsemen*; for they came out of *Persia*; and *Persia* signifies an *Horse*. Thus, in the Visions of *Daniel*, the King of *Græcia* is called, a *Goat*; because the *Græcians* were stiled *Agades*, which has wild Goats in the Signification of it. Moreover, the *Turks* have sometimes come into the Field with two or three hundred thousand *Horse*. The *Angel* that blowes in this Trumpet seems now to be, *Clayado Ratus*; the war seems to be passing away. I confess, as these wars came upon the *Cries* of the Retired, Concealed, Persecuted Worshippers in the *Temple* of God; so the late horrible Impressions of the *Turks* upon the Empire, must be Repured, the Revenges of God upon the Emperor (whatever contrary Advice, his Confessor may have given him) for the Treacherous and nefarious Persecutions of the *Protestants*, that immediately Preceded them. If therefore, the Emperor should now at all Renew those Persecutions, tis possible the *Turks* may yet make one Or set more upon his Territories, more destructive than any in the former Generations. But it is to be hop'd, we have seen the last!

I do again therefore say, what is there to stay for? If our State of Peace must now be

quickly; and indeed our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, is now in *Heav'n* for the Kingdom which He has been thus long waiting for. As for the Seven *Vials*, that carry on the *Last Plagues* of Antichrist, if they are all Reserved for the Seventh Trumpet, they will doubtless make a quick work of it. But it is not impossible, That they may all be under the Sixth Trumpet, only that the *Last* being divided into those Two parts of the Harvest and the *Fruitage*, the second part of it, will be contemporary with the Trumpet in the Days whereof *The Majesty of God shall be Finished*. In this Time, is very Satisfactory to see, how the Air has been fill'd with Voices and Preachers that briefly, shew throw the *Antichristian Kingdom*, at the Reformation. The great City of the Latin Church, very strangely then fell into Three Companies, namely, The Lutherans, the Calvinists, and that which yet remained with Antichrist. According to this Hypothesis (which is that of the Excellent *Jurins*) the First *Vial* or Hour-glass, of the Plagues upon Popery, ran out, while the Sea of Rome fell into that Infinite Corruption of the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries, which have made it forever Obnoxious and Contemptible. The Second *Vial* ran out, while the Bloody *Crusades* in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries, carried vast Thousands of Wretched Creatures, to the Tombs in the East; where three or four Times destroyed as less than diverse Millions of wretched *Europeans*. The Third *Vial* ran out, while the latter *Crusades* that followed carried smaller legions into the next Century to the like Villanous and Robbers Expeditions. There was proper for an Angel to cry out, *Thus are Righteous* Lord;

Did; for they have shed the Blood of Saints ? Inas-
much, as in the midst of these *Croisades*, the An-
cient *Waldenses* and *Albigenses* had the most horrid
Barbarities perpetrated on them. The Fourth
Vial ran out, while the *Papal Power* grew to such
an Height, especially towards the Thirteenth and
Fourteenth Centuries, as to *Scorch us like Fire* ;
until the Intolerable Usurpations of it, laid the
Foundation of its Confusion. The Fifth *Vial*
ran out, while the City of *Rome*, at the Year 1308
lost the *Pope*, which was the *Sun* of it ; by the *Pope*
Removing to *Avignon*. This now caused the
Schism of Two *Popes* together, like the *Sun* and
Moone in an *Eclipse* ; hence follow'd cruel Blood-
shed's and *Reproach* ; and the City of *Rome* sat in
Darkness for above Seventy years together. The
Sixth *Vial* ran out, while the *Turks* got over, the
Bosphorus which was the Second *Babylones*, that had
been a *Bar* unto them ; and push'd on their
Victories, till *Charles* the Fifth made them *Raise*
the Siege which they had Invested *Vienna* with.
It was in this period, that the *Canon Law*, which
does consist of *Three parts*, was Completed. Here
the *uscleas Spirits*. Compiled the *Laws*, *Orders*,
Oracles of the *Papedum* , and every *Canon* ends
with an *Armageddon*, or an *Anathema* and *Excom-
munication*, (for that is the English of it) by the
Fright whereof, the Subjects of the *Papedum*
have been kept in the greatest Awe imaginable ;
twas the Fright of those Brute *Thunder bolts*, which
gathered the *Pupish Princes* to the *Barrels* of *Ado-
nis* in that Age ; and what further *Battels* it may
drive them unto, is yet with *God* ? If these
Illustrations upon the *Vials* will hold, we have
more Evidence yet for our great Assertion ; That

the Day of Peace, will come quickly.

Thus have I laid before you, a short Scheme of the *Apocalypse*. For the view, that *John* had of these Things, you must suppose a Book of Leaves written both on the *Inside*, and on the *Backside*. This Book Rolled up in a Cylindrical Form, under Seven Labels, fastned with Seven Seals. Then suppose the First Seal opened, and the First Label removed; under the First Label had *John* the Vision of the First Rider, and so on, till the Seventh Seal was opened; each of the Sculptures being Enlarged with *Visions* and *Voices* to illustrate it. All these being thus opened and Remov'd, the Book might be Unroll'd; then the First Six Trumpets, with their Circumstances, appeared on the Backside of the Book; the Book was then East, & the Beasts Kingdom not Visionally expos'd in it, until afterwards the *Inside* of the Book it self comes to be unfolded. Behold, how these Wonderful Sights have now also been Exhibited unto our selves; the best *Expositor*, (namely *Ev. 22*) has gloriously Interpreted them.

Application.

But since these things are so, what shall we do? I have been making some Essayes upon The Time of the Day; a few more upon The work of the Day, may well accompany them. It will be well, if we may so have understanding in the Times, as to know what we ought to do, with reference to the future Kingdom of our David. Accept, I pray, of this Counsel then, as coming from the God of Heaven to us; Labour or be found in
John

such Frames, and such Wayes, as the State of
PEACE now advancing upon the World, would
oblige us unto.

Particularly,

I. Why do Gaily and Able men give them-
selves, no more to the Study of those Truths which
concern the Peaceable Kingdom of our Lord Jesus
Christ? Since the Accounts that we have about
The State of Peace to come, are things whereof our
Lord hath said, in Rev. 22. 6. These sayings are
faithful and True; they must needs be worthy
our Study, as being some of the Rays darted from
Him, who is, The God of Truth. And since these
are the matters, whereof the Apostle Peter tells
us, in 2 Pet. 1. 16. There are in them, some things
Hard to be understood; the more of Mystery there
is in any such Truths of God, the more Exqui-
site and Accurate should be our Study thereupon.
The Truths which concern the Kingdom of our
Lord Jesus Christ, are not so unintelligible, as that
we must throw them aside, as he of old the Ob-
scure and Crabbed Lines of the Poet *Pirrus*, or
cry out with Despair, *I cannot Read, for the Book
is Staled!* No, the Representation which our Lord
has given us of those Truths, is called a Revela-
tion of them; and the Students thereof have there-
fore a Blessing pronounced upon them. David
once ador'd the Grace of God unto him, which
gave him cause for that Exclamation, *Lord, Thou
shouldest speak to me, of things to come!* For
us then to hearken the Advice that we have had
from Heaven about the Things to come; for us to
think that, *Some Scripture is not profitable;* for

us to Take us bred unto the *sure word of Prophecy* & my Brethren, tis a Dissemper which we cannot be Excused in. I confess, *Apocalyptical Studies*, are fittest for those Raised Souls, whose Hearts strings are made of a Little Fier (lay, than other mens; and it is to Them especially, that I take leave to say, There is a World of Sweetne's in Diligent and Regular Studies upon the Kingdom, of our Lord Jesus. When *Jeremiah* had been deeply engag'd therein, he adds, *My sleep was sweet unto me* ? And *Job* found the Book which had these things in it, *Rev. 10. 10. Sweet as Honey*. I may tell you, That the very Angels of Heaven themselves, afford unto Holy men that (like Them) are bent upon such Studies, a Communion that is hardly to be uttered: *Angelical Visits, Angelical Comforts, Angelical Motions*, are in a peculiar, though in an *invisible* manner Vouchsafed unto such men of God. And I shall tell you, that the Food of such Studies is marvellously Scattered all the Bible over; so that you may almost every where, after some Digging, throw up some unsuspected Intimations of this kind, whereas you will find impossible to forbear crying out, with some Transport of Soul, *I have found ! I have found !* There is likewise a World of Safety, in Critical Studies upon our Distance from that Kingdom. There are indeed very *unsafe* Computations, to which, and by which, many have Expos'd themselves. It has been Ridiculous to see, by what *Chronology*, by what *Cabala*, and with what *Timidity*, some have Steered, in Fixing, The end of the world; and there are many Temptations, into which men fall, when they find they have been too Bold in their

Sup.

Supputations. But yet Modest Examination of
 of the Time we are in, might prevent many a
 wrong step, that otherwise may be taken by us. The
 Jews are so maliciously Apprehensive of this, That
 they, *Curse him who Computes the Times*; and when
 A. Samuel considered how long Time the Jews had
 now been in their Captivity, he cries out, *Lord,*
I am afraid, that the Jesus whom the Christians
worship, is indeed the Just one? Pray, let them
 think on. But if the Ephraimites in Egypt, had
 sufficiently weigh'd, That the Four Hundred and
 Thirty years of their continuing as they were,
 wanted much of being out; I suppose they
 would not have made such a Disastrous Expedition
 against the *Canaanites*, as that which in *Psal. 78 9.*
is, uttered among, The Dark sayings of old. On
 the other side, if Luther had been Apprehensive,
 that the Time appointed for making better and
 better Batteries than those which Hus and others
 had made an hundred years before, upon the
 Romish Bab, his was come on, what Serenity, with
 his Magnanimity, must it have insus'd into him?

In a Word, An Acquaintance with Prophecy's
 may have more than a little Influence upon the
 Accomplishments of those Prophecies. It was fore-
 told perhaps, two hundred years before hand, in
Ezek. 40 2. *Cyrus shall say to Jerusalem, Thou*
shalt be built. 'Tis now reported, that the shyn-
 ing of that promise unto Cyrus, was the thing
 that afterwards Enrich'd him to do what He
 said. Thus, if on this Day, any Pious Prince,
 should sell himself to be Convinced, That this
 were the Time for Dissension to be brought upon the
 great City's Idles of *Jerusalem*; how much Vigour
 and

43. EXPECTANDA; OR,

and Conduct might the Affairs of such a Prince be thence inspired with? Doubtless, their present MAJESTIES of Great BRITAIN, have seen cause to Consider on the Prediction of the Incomparable JUBILEU, in the Dedication of his Excellent little Book entituled, *The Ballance of the Sanctuary*, and Published several years before the Late Revolutions in England, which have so Eminently made good that Prediction; God has placed you (says he, speaking of the then Prince and Princess of Orange) for Miracles in Israel, and for Signs, that he has intended your Highnesses to be the Principal Instruments of that Grand Deliverance, which He hath prepared for His Church, when the Storm shall be over.

Well then, Let good Researches into Sacred Prophecy, meet with no more ill Resentments among the people of God. As for Profane persons, tis no wonder if they Care for none of these Things. It is what Prophecy it self has assur'd us of, in 1 Pet 3. 1. 4. There shall in the Last Days come Scoffers, that shall say, where is the promise of His coming? And it is well noted by our most Learned Lat. Our Lord treated it a piece of Love, unto His Church, in that His Councils so long before, and Proclaim'd them both wise and blessed, that Study them; then by the Counsel of the Divine Word, they must be Fools and miserable, that neglect these Sacred Oracles. But for any Pious persons to give these things a Discountenance, is an Evil that scarce can be imagin'd for. As yet as the Discipline is not being sold of our Lords Resurrection in Love no. 1. The words seem to

so, there are still among the *Disciples*, those that *Explode* the Things which they ought rather to *Embrace*, with many *Extraneous* of Soul. Yea, such is their too-*Rash*, but *Strong* prejudice against these things, that if they do not like the first opposers of the *Chilias*, they deny any Divine Authority to the *Revelation* of *John*, and the *Second Epistle* of *Peter*, yet they cannot patiently bear to hear the Result of the most Elaborate Meditations upon those Prophecies. What is this, but a part of the *Sleep*, which the *Virgins* in these days are to be overtaken with.

But *Awake*, I beseech you, *Awake*, out of this unbecoming *Sleep*; and *Read*, and *Think*, and *Pray*, until the *Father of Lights* have given you some *Light* in those *Prophecies*, which you should covet the Understanding of. Indeed the *First Step* we are to take in our *Studies*, is, To get a large measure of *Grace* into our *Souls*. It is said in *Dan. 12. 10.* None of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. Men that are without the *Fear of God*, will go little better to *Work* than an *Irish Bishop* upon the *Prophecies* of our *Lord*; nor is it likely that those who *Drink* any of the *Rozib* Poison, should have a sight sharp enough to *Peirce* into those *Prophecies*, much further than *Campasilla*, who has written a *Book* to prove, that the present *Reign* of the *Pope*, is the promised *Reign* of our *Lord*. But let us be like *Abraham*, for our *Friendship* with the *God of Heaven*, and we may make more *hopeful* Attempts in our holy *Studies*. What says the *Psalmist*, in *Psal. 25. 14.* The Secret of the *Lord*, is with them that fear him: and it is His *Covenant* to make them to know it.

II. But unto our Studies on the Peaceable Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, we should add our Prayers for it. Let us Long for, the State of Peace to come ; and joyn our Cryes, to the Cryes of the Martyrs, whom the Ten Primitive Persecutions had Sacrificed, *How long, O Lord, Hail and Tye !* 'Tis a Particular in the Directory which our Lord ha's given us for our Prayers. *Let thy Kingdom come ;* now there will be all Peace in that Kingdom : and it is the Charge which He ha's laid upon us, *Keep not Silence, give the Lord no Rest, until He make Jerusalem a Praise in the Earth ;* now you will have a Vision of Peace in that Jerusalem. It is required of us, in Psal. 137. 6. *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem ;* for That should we Pray, and for the hastning of that Peace, that shall be in and from the New Jerusalem. Where God ha's given a Promise, methinks, we should not think much of a Prayer ; since our God ha's told us of the Peace in the latter Dayes, it becomes us to say, *For this cause thy S. roart. has found in his heart, to make his Prayer unto thee.* And, who knows what powerful and Eff.ual Jogs, our Prayers may give unto the wheels that may bring on the most Comfortable Revolutions ? You find in Rev. 8. 4. 5. The Prayers of the Saints quickly bring *Touadrings, Voices, Lightnings, and Earth- quakes* with them : and thus, the great Missions, hop'd, That God would (and He Did) carry on the Reformation in Germany, because many poor little Gracious Women, did use to meet and Pray for that Blessing. Be sure, The *Next* we are to, The Peace of the great Day, the

the more Prayerful sh-uld we be for the breake
of that Day. When David understood by his
that the Deliverance of the Lords People
just at the Door, he set himself to Pray with
Fasting before God ; and Implores, in Dan.
19. O Lord, hear ; O Lord, forgive ; O Lord,
heaven and do ; defer not, for thy own sake, O
my God ; it seems, he was afraid (and much
more may we at this day be so) Lest the
Salvations of the Church, might be defer'd be-
yond the Time Express'd, because of mens un-
Behaviours under the Divine Dispensations. I say
then, Pray hard ; and if our Prayers have had
their Success in Procuring the Peace of the World,
we need no more doubt, than David did, of a
LOT in this Peace.

But we have both in point of Interest and Im-
portant of Gratitude, a further Obligation to such
Prayers as these. For, one main Thing, in this
State of Peace which we pray for, is, The Calling
of so many Dispers'd Israelites as may make a
mighty Nation, into the Sheep fold of the Lord Je-
sus Christ. When the Israelites are brought up
to Repentance and Conversion, Then ris, that, The
Times of Refreshing do come from the presence of the
Lord. Now, the Restoration of Israel will be to
us Gentiles, an Advantage unspeakable and full
of Glory. This is largely discuss'd by the Apostle
Paul, in his Chapter upon it ; where among
other great Things, he says, in Rom. 11. 19. If
their casting away, were the Reconciling of the world,
what shall the Receiving of them be, but Life from
the Dead ? It seems, nothing less than, A Re-
conversion from the Dead, shall then bless the
World. Moreover, Israel did once Importune
of

of God, that we *Gentiles* might have the *Breasts* of His Institutions among us, for the nourishment of our Souls. Notwithstanding the *Envy* ne carnal among them, they that had in them the Spirit of God, would say, as in *Psal.* 67 2, 3. *Let thy Way be known upon Earth, and thy Saving Health among all Nations; Let the People Praise thee O God, Let all the People Praise thee;* but the case is now so altered, that if we have any Ingenuity in us, we shall do as much for them! Thus, even by our Prayers for it, we are to, hasten the Day of God I know not, That the Day of *Israels* Reduction has any Symptom of nearness, in the late Exiccation of the *Dead Sea*; so far that the Ruines of the old Cities in it, of late years begin to appear [though I have Considered *Ezek.* 16. 53, 55.] But I know that a Spirit of Prayer for it, every where would be a Blessed Symptom of it. It is that of which I may say, *The whole Creation yearneth for it*; Surely then, *Our selves which have the first fruits of the Spirit*, cannot be without our Groans for the Acceleration of it. Our own Peace is thus Enwrapped in our Prayers. Before, now *Antichrist* is come, we need not be afraid of praying, *Pro morâ Finis*, as *Tertullian* tells us, the Christians of the First Ages were!

III. And until the *Peaceable Kingdom* of our Lord Jesus Christ arrive, let the Prospect of it, Comfort us, under all, The Sufferings of this present Time.

We find those two things conjoynd, in *Rev.* 1. 9. *The Kingdom and Patience of Jesus Christ.* We must have Patience though that Kingdom should

Things to be Look'd for.

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should be longer coming than we think for, & we should have yet the more *Patience* because that Kingdom will make amends for all our *Calamities* that have preceded it; but let the Kingdom give *Comfort* unto us, as well as *Patience*. We are now *Surrounded* and *harassed* with innumerable *Mischies*; especially with *Wars* that have all sorts of *Mischies* Complicated in them. We are fill'd with *Painfuls*, when we see the *Vanity* that Embroils *Humane Affairs*, and *Exhorts* people to *Plunder*, *Slaughter*, and *Captive* One another. But, *Nos si male mori, et olim Sic Erit*. Let it comfort us to think, There will be no such horrible *Disasters*, in those *Times* that we are now *under* us.

'Tis possible indeed that you and I, may Dy in the *Storm*; and yet a person of Note, in the Close of a *Worthy Book*, Dedicated unto the present King of Great Brittain, cheerfully says, I can send you the News of a *Co Israel* Mercantile of the *Flourishing State* of the Church, very shortly to begin, and to continue to the End of the World; and therefore I desire all *Good People*, to have special care of their *Health* that they may be as *Happy* as to Live to see a full consummation of this *Perfection*.

However, you know 'twas Engag'd upon a Prince that lost his Life in a *Battel*, *Chronic* 24. 28. Thou shalt be gather'd into thy *Gravell*. Peace. When you Dy, you shall go from war to Peace; as tis said of the *Righteous*, He shall enter into Peace; and when the *New Jerusalem*, withall the Peace of it, shall come down from *God*, out of *Heaven*, make no doubt of your being acquainted with it.

But it is possible that many of Us, may Live to see the Peace of the latter Days, getting further on upon us, than we are well aware. Not so difficult in giving my Hopes leave to, *The Time is favour, the set Time is not*; as to feel no Encouragement for the Prayer which the Prophet, made upon such Hopes of old, in Psal. 102. 24. O my God, Take me not away in the midst of my Days. The Scripture seems to intimate, that just before the Peaceable Time, when it shall be proclaimed, *The Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ*; there shall be a little Presage of it, in one of the Ten Kingdoms, which once made the Ten Horns of Antichrist, by a wonderful Rising and Ascending of our Lords witnesses in that Kingdom. If then in some very Considerable Kingdom of Egypt, where the witnesses of our Lord Jesus have most Finished, or Perfected and Completed, their Testimony for Him, you should see a large Number of just People, Witnessing to the King, Office of Christ in His Church; and Enduring of Trials like to those which our Lord Himself underwent, for witnessing **THAT** God's Cause; If you should see that, as it was in our Saviour's case, a company of men like the Pharisees among the Jews, (possibly men of the same True Religion) but under the Influence of a Romanist, should at last prevail so far as to scatter, break up, and cut off, all the Congregations of these witnesses, and thereupon, send Gifts *the 10th day*, or keep a Day of Thanksgiving, as if delivered from some Dangerous Place; If you should see, just Three years & as half, after this, a Royal Grant of Liberty for these Witnesses.

Witnesses to Revive their Publick worship, like what the Jewes had of old, by an Heathen Prince allowing them to Rebuild the Temple of God, on which the Prophet says, *They were brought out of their Graves*: Lastly, If then you see the Revolutions of a mighty Earth-quake presently come upon the Nation, that shall Irresistibly carry on all the Interests of the Reformation there; I say, if you should ever see such a Thing as this come to pass, near the close of Our Twelve hundred and Sixty Dayes, behold, an Omen of Great things immediately to follow thereupon; I will argue, That the last Slaughter of the Witnesses is over, in that Kingdom, and that the Kingdom shall shortly after become Eminent for all sorts of Encouragements given to Religion there, in the Sight and Spite of all its Adversaries; I will argue, that the like work shall quickly be carried on through the other parts of Europe, and that the Witnesses, like Elisha, dropping off the Massle of their Sackcloth, shall every where pass into a State of prosperous Holiness, beyond any that has been in the former Ages. The Faithful Ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ among us, that yet Preach and s^uper the Crose, and Confess with the Straits - and wants of a Sackcloth Condition, have a particular Comfort thus provided for them, in the Omens of our Dayes; Know it, ye Witnesses of our Lord, the Old Clothes of the Wilderness, may be taken from you, sooner than many of you imagine, and you may shortly Enter into that Rest, where, you shall have, The Garment of Praise, for the Spirit of Honour.

Finally, Let us all Solace our selves in the
Fore-

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Fore-thoughts of that Kingdom, wherein all Peace will swallow up the Death which do's visit us every Day. When the Primitive Christians were under their manifold Oppressions, they Thought, they Talk'd, they Wrote so much on, *The Kingdom! The Kingdom!* that the Silly Pagans Charg'd them with a Plot against the Roman Empire for it. But, we may take the Comfort of, *The Kingdom*, which is to bring Peace unto us with it, and yet be well able to, *Silence the Ignorance of Foolish men.*

IV. In the mean Time, let us *Attende* the *Peaceable Kingdom* of our Lord Jesus Christ, by obtaining and maintaining as much of it *Now* among our selves, as may be Consistent with our present Circumstances. Or, as the Apostle has it, in 2 Pet. 3. 14. *Seeing yet Look for such Things, be Diligent that yet may be found of him in Peace*; if our Lord should now presently come to settle the *Peace* of His Kingdom in the World. Indeed we cannot cause the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus to come, one Hour before, *The Day* which God ha's Appointed for the *Judging of the World*, by that man, whom He hath Ordained. Nevertheless, to be making some faint Imitations of it, would be no less an Advantage to us, than tis Inconvenient on us. If we would have the Priviledges of that Kingdom, we should be found in such Dispositions and Behaviours, as that Kingdom will one Day bring into the World; Yea, Let us, *Press on*, if by any means, we might attain to the *Resurrection of the Dead*. We are told, in Math. 24. 26. *Blessed is that Servant, whom His Lord when He cometh,*

shall

shall find SO doing : And our SO Duty, that if the Kingdom of our Lord should now immediately break in upon us, we should be found already Initiating our selves at the Works that Kingdom. THIS is no small part of the WATCHFULNESS, which especially in these Latter Days, we are call'd unto.

And indeed, a proper PEACE, is the first thing, that I would hence take Occasion to Recommend unto my Neighbours ; by which PEACE, I mean, a Dismission given to all Quarrels, Contentions, Animosities. If our Lord Jesus were now, To be Revealed from Heav'n, in Flaming Fire, let Him not find us broiling in the Fire of wrath and strife, one against another ; This Fire would but make us a more Combustible Fuel unto That.

I do not lay any stress upon a Pretended Prophecy, lately found (they say) among some old Manuscripts of Venerable Aids, at Rome, which speaking of great Revolutions to be in the Year 1688. adds,

Caesa. tamen mundi Sursum ibunt, atque

Deorsum

Imperia, et Fluctus undique grandis erit.

But certainly, there is a Terrible Flood of Desolations, now Rolling over the World ; and in such a Flood it becomes all the Creatures in the Ark or Church of God, that have any Antipathies unto one another, to lay them all aside. Methinks, it becomes all Protestants to unite at this Day, and instead of Smiling their Fellow-Servants

Servants for their Differences, many of which have been in things that the Imposers have Confess'd. *Therefore, consider, whether the Lord will also delay His coming.* *Aristides and Themistocles*, the Heads of two Great Factions in Athens, when they saw the Persians take advantage of their Divisions, presently struck hands, and said, *Here we lay down all our Differences, until we have put an End unto the Persian War.* So, *Alexandres and Nicias*, two great men of Athens, being at Variance, when they saw the Wickedness of one *Hyperbolus*, who sought the Banishment of one of them, in order to the Destruction of t'other, they secretly met, and made a Reconciliation, and procur'd the Exile and Ruine of their Enemy. Cannot all Protestants now at last see those Intrigues of our Popish Adversaries, which are forcible Arguments for the like prudent, and speedy Accommodations? May our God now Raise up many a *Dary*, to Negotiate a Pacification among the Reformed and Reforming Churches; and many a *Burroughs* to spread Uniting *Irenicums* among the people of God? Singular Crowns will our Lord Jesus in His Kingdom have to bestow upon these Blessed Sows of Peace.

But let me, Secondly, bespeak a Sacred REST, as well as a settled Peace, in the Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. His Kingdom will be the Sabbath of the Creation; and so much of the Sabbath as we have, so much of that Kingdom we do as it were Take by Force afore-hand, while the Substance of it is derailed from us. 'Tis no wrong to the History of the Creation,

Creation, if we discern this *Mystery* as it is
 presented in it ; Profound Writers have
 me the way. The farlorn Mass of mankind
 horribly defaced and Confounded by Sin, whom
 of as God will not own Himselfe the Author, He
 will not say, It is God ; had yet the Spirit of
 God presiding over the Waters of the People,
 and still preserving somewhat of His Interest
 in them. This World of mankind, had one
 day, from *Adam* to *Abraham* ; in which men
 had first an Evening, or Dimmer, and then a
 Morning, or Brighter Notice of the *Messiah*, who
 is, The Light of the World. The Church it self,
 was this while an unform'd, and unshap'd thing
 in dispersed Families ; but they had some Light
 of the *Messiah*, though He were not to come
 untill some *Days* or *Ages* after ; yet was the
 Light of the Church distinguished by God from
 the Dark of the World, however He Blesses not
 the World in their Separation from the Church.
 The World had a *Second Day*, from *Abraham* to
Moses. God now began to set apart His own
 People, from the Rest of the Waters ; but the
 Separation was hitherto Imperfect, there were
 other Godly persons yet left in many other
 places. He call'd a people up, unto an Heavenly
 Church State ; but so small was the Number
 the people thus advanced in the Houses of a
 few *Patriarchs*, that they were no more in Com-
 parison with the rest, than the Clouds are to the
 Seas ; however, 'twas fit they should make some
 Figure in the Book of God ; for from them have
 come down the Rains of the Blessings on us all.
 The World had a *Third Day* from *Moses* to *Jesus*.
 The Separation of Gods People from the Waters

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was now Completed, in the National Church of Israel; 'twas ripe for a Blessing, yea, for a Re-ed one. The People of the most High, now w^{as}, as a Dry Land; the Church is not like the Sea (as the World is) barren, rugged full of Monsters; and though the Sea be alwayes beating upon it, yet it keeps her Ground. Yea, the Fruits of all Graces, Virtues, and good Works, in an agreeable Diversity, are Conspicuous on it; if Winds appear, they are to be plucked up. The World had a Fourth Day, from Jesus to Antichrist. Now do's our Lord Christ, The Sun of Righteousness, Exhibit Himself; and the Church becomes as a Moon, with her Borrow'd Various Changeable Illuminations though not without her Spots, depending on Him; and Stars, or Ministers, of several Magnitudes, among which, the Apostles were of the First, are now Shining in the Orbs of Heaven. The World had a Fifth Day, from the Rise to the Height of Antichrist; or, from the Fifth Century to the Eleventh. Birds and Fishes are the Emblems of the men, that make the stir in these Ages. First, there were men of Bold, Soaring, Daring Spirits, that would needs fly so high, as to Raise Disputations upon the Trinity, the Generation of the Son, the Procession of the Holy Ghost. In those Times, tis known how all martyrs ran upon the Flights of the Arian, Macedonian, Eutychian, and such other Heresies; the Flights were sometimes Happy, and often Too far. Afterwards, there are Spawn'd Vast Shoals of other Creatures, that Live upon Filth and Mud, and upon Devouring one another; they had the Multitude on their side, and they dwell in the Abyss of Ignorance; and those Great Whales, the

Things to be Look'd for.

the Popes of Rome have had a particular Consecration among them. The World ha's a Sixth Day, from the Height to the Fall of Manichæus, which is between Seven and Eight hundred years. Sorts of Beasts, and Insects and Serpents, have in these Ages been met withall. But in the Close, our Lord Jesus Christ, our Second Adam, sent Himself to espouse His Church, to be under the Notion of a Woman, unto Himself. And what is now to follow, but a Sabbath, wherein our Lord Jesus, will give His Church to see that Rest, which Remains for the People of God. It is possible, that the Nation, which ha's discovered a peculiar Zeal for the Weekly Sabbath, may enter sooner than other Nations, into the Twilight of that Rest. But, before, God will wonderfully Break the Peace of those, who do not carefully Celebrate the Sabbaths which are the Figures of the Kingdom wherein we shall have Peace. England saw this, in the Wars that quickly Ensu'd upon the Sports, which the people were once Invited unto the Profanation of the Lords Day withall. 'Twas the Expression of a Worthy Person, when he then heard the Drums beating for Drums and Frolicks on the Sabbath Day, I fear lest the Holy God punish this Iniquity with beating up Drums for a March on this very Day! and you know how that Fear was quickly brought upon the Nation. Thus, a person of Quality reflecting upon, The Tears of Germany, Printed fifty years ago, saw cause to say, he believ'd the Wars of Germany, would not be over yet, because is a Catalogue of their provoking Evils, there was no Confession made of Sabbath-breaking too Common among them, and you again know what a Srag of Blood and Fire

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Fire the Empire is, to this very Day.

There is one thing more that I would be-
to accompany the Peace and Rest of our
; and that is, a Gospel CHURCH, to
pursued every where with, *A Zeal that shall*
Not as ye. We are now in those Earth quakes,
that will certainly shake down all the Houses that
are not of a Divine Institution and Constitution
in the World; the Ordinances of an Evangelical
Church order, are those things That cannot be Sha-
ken; and the way to be safe at such a Shaking Time
as is now before us, is to get as many of these
Unshaken Things, among us as we can. The
Planting of Churches is one of those Good Things
that are now Required of us. The vast Improve-
ment of Navigation since the late Invention of
the Load stone and the Compass, has, like the other
Changes of the World, the Concerns of the
Church in the Bottom of it; it makes us able
to carry the Gospel unto such Corners of the
Earth, as have hitherto sat in, *The Region of*
the Shadow of Death. Now, 'Tis a great Scandal,
That we should permit the Roman Catholics, to
Exceed us, in Diffusive and Expensive Missions, for
the Propagation of the Faith; and that so few of
our Consulates and Patrons count themselves
concerned for the Conveying of Spiritual Things
to the Heathen, from whom we have so many
Temporal; and by whom (which is dreadful to
be seen) Two Thirds of the World, are still
out to this day! Were men more Vigilant in
conquering the World, or if the Spirit of our
GOD were more Universally prevailing in
them [And within Twenty or Thirty years, he will
be

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See more of This] they would not only in Honour and Enrich themselves, but also serve *The End*; than they are well aware: I mean time, it belongs unto us, to see, that our selves do not keep at a Distance from *Church-State*, which our Lord Jesus Christ appointed for us. That *Church State* is, The Kingdom of *Heaven*; and it fits us for a further Kingdom. 'Tis not good being Abroad in a *Form*; and you forget not, who 'twas that said, *Our Father have I desired; That I may dwell in the House of the Lord*; for in the Time of Trouble, He shall Hide us. But the *Purging of Churches* is a thing, about which we are at the same Time to be Sollicitous. We find that when the *Twelve hundred and Sixty* Dayes of *Antichrist*, are out; there are *Thirty* Dayes, and *Forty Five* Dayes more, which, *Blessed is he that waits and comes unto*. It seems by This, that as *Judas Mithabem*, after the profanation of the *Mosaical Sanctuary*, by *Antiochus* for *Twelve hundred and Sixty* Natural Dayes, then spent *Thirty* Dayes in the *Purification* of the Temple; and spent *Forty five* Dayes more, to prepare all things, for the *Dedication* of it; thus, after the *Strokes* that God is now giving to *Antichrist*, there may go some Years to *Purge* and *Cleanse* the Church of many *Schisms*, *Errors*, and *Abuses* now crept into it. Now, though I am weary of seeing any Church in all things answering *The Pattern* is the *Mant*, until those Dayes of *Purification* come; yet it is very pleasing to the Lord Jesus to see us Do what we can, for the *Forming* of that Holy Work; the very Soul of our Lord, is unspeakably-pleased with us when He sees, that it is our desire and study

have our Churches Exactly like that New-Jerusalem, whereinto enters nothing which D files, nor what Abomination and Falsity. Indeed, as when *Vigilantius* appeared Vigorously against the Abuses that were Crept into the Church in the beginning of the Fifth Century, no less a man than *Jerom* undertook the Patronage of those Abuses, and bestowing the Name of *Dormitantius*, with other bad and base Language upon the man that had so faithfully Reproved them ; tis possible that some Great and Good men, may now in like manner blow upon our Endeavours to Correct the Abuses that are got into the Church ; but the Day is at hand, when such Reformers will be acknowledged, the only *Vigilant* Servants of God. Thus, although the World be now in a *Midnight* of Security, yet is that Cry Raised among you, Behold, the Bridegroom comes, Go ye forth to meet Him ! We meet Him, when we Go forth to much of that Reformation, which His Coming will more thoroughly fill the World withall.

V. And let us Beware of being found among those that must horribly perish, in the Confusions, that are to precede the Peaceable Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. When a People are to Enter into Rest, usually some Consuming Judgments do first carry away an Untoward, and Ungracious Generation, like the *Israelites* whom the matter of *Baal Peor*, prov'd fatal unto. But never was there such a Prodigious Waste of *M.*, as there will be, when God is just Leading a Chosen Generation, into the Rest of His Kingdom in the Latter Days. Now there are especially Two Things, that lay men open to the most formi-

Things to be Look'd for.

formidable Plagues of our Dayes; which are, *Papery* and *Persecution*.

Where to find *Antichrist*, if not in *Papery*, can tell? The Day Light is now a little more broad for us, to take the sorry Puppet of the *Gratian Antichrist*, for, *The Man of Sin*. It is enough, to note, That *Antichrist* must have an Empire, and yet an Empire founded in the Mystery, of a False Religion; it must here withal be an Empire obtain'd more by *Craft* than Force; but an Empire, whose Chief City must be seated on *Sin*, as *Mount Sinai*, and the Great City which in the Dayes of the Apostle *John*, ruled over the Kingdoms of the Earth; it must be a Continuation of the *Fourth Monarchy*, and a Revival of it, when it had Received a *Deadly Wound*; but it must be only an Image of the Roman Empire, a Spiritual Sort of a Thing, which has no Arms; but the Superstition of its own *Devots*, to maintain it. *Antichrist* must have a Prophet, or a man that pretends himself *Infallible*, to pronounce Oracles upon all Occasions; and a Corruption of Religion, especially by a *Doctrin* of *Demas*, or Infidelity, our Mediators: a Worship of *Mary* or *Profectors*, and *Guardians*, is the Thing that chiefly Signals him; yet this *Idoltry*, being styled an *Adultery*, must be Committed by a Church of Christians, that once was the Spouse of the Lord Jesus Christ: it must be in the Temple of God. *Antichrist* must have Ten Kings for the Support of his Throne; among which there must be Ten old Kingdoms in his Neighbourhood; more particularly *Sicily* into his hands; and at the same time, he must utter *terrible* blasphemies, and by his own power and greatness; he must ascribe

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to himself, the Powers of the Lord Jesus Christ ; and there withal make Bloody wars against the *Satan*, and overcome them ; as his Kingdom is to *Sodom* for Filthiness, it must like-wise be an for Cruelty ; he must Interdict all Commerce with such as will not pay Homage to him. *Antichrist* must Raise *Paganism* out of its Grave, in a Dignity ; and he must make a Noise of Innumerable Miracles, to demonstrate what he Teaches ; persons given to Lyes, Legends, and Fables, must be his Emissaries ; and yet they must pretend great Austerity, by Forbidding to *Abury*, and Commanding to abstain from meats. In a Word, the Mystical *Babylon* must also drive a mighty Traffick, in the Sale of Spiritual Commodities ; by which means, the Court of *Antichrist* must be Excessively magnificent ; and he will Enslave the Children of men to all this, by first *Intoxicating* of them. I pray, go find if you can, anything but the Church of *Rome* that can afford you these Characters ! — *Et Eris mihi magnus.*

Apolla. No, 'Tis from some Extraordinary Blindness, if men do not now see, the Church of *Rome* to be that *Babylon*, whereof tis the call of God, in *Rev. 18 4* Come out of her, my People, that ye be not partakers of her Sins, and that ye Receive not of her Plagues. 'Tis a thing whereof some Considerable persons & many Angels, have been aware. Among others, a whole Council of Gallick Bishops, in the year, 991. Cry'd out upon the Pope, He is the *Antichrist* who sits in the Temple of God. And it is impossible without Admiration to read the Admirable Oration made by the Bishop of *Sarisburgh*, to the States of the Empire, in the year 1440, in which he calls, The

The Popes, The Priests of Babel; and Racks at Rome, the Antichrist; which had the Ten Kings, or Kings of Europe under him. It would not more *seem* than *strange*, if we should then be loſt to find the *Seat* of Antichrist in our Dayes. Wherefore, Believe me, 'Tis not poſſible for a man to Do a more Dangerous Thing, than to Continue in the Romiſh Communion, at ſuch a Time as this. As for thoſe Kingdoms, wherein Popery has been Aboliſhed, If any man, be he High or Low, Rich or Poor, ſhall go to bring the people under that *Grand Cheat* again, I will Read you the Fate of that man; The Curſe of Jeſus never fell ſo hard upon the Rebuilder of Demoliſhed Jericho, as the Curſe of Jeſus will fall upon the Authors of this Accurſed Enterprize; neither ſhall they prosper in it, any better than the Jews, who at the Invitation of the Aſoſtate Jazias, going to Re-edify their Temple, God ſent a terrible Earth-quake that over-threw all they had already done, and by Fire from Heaven burn't up the Tools, and ſome of thoſe that uſed them. But as for thoſe Kingdoms, which yet Continue Impenitent and Incurable in their Popery, One may tremble to foreſee the Vengeance impending over them. There is a *Conflagration* intended for our World, of which the frequent Miſchiefs by Fire in our dayes may be our Monitors. This *Conflagration* [Conſider Dan. 7. 11, 12. and Iſai. 66. 24. and Ezek. 39. 9, 10. and Rev. 14. 10.] as it ſeems, will be ſo *Leiſurely* and *Progreſſive*, as to give an Opportunity, which we do not yet Comprehend, for the Escape of ſuch as are on *perple*, the *New world*. But the firſt Effects of this Prodigious *Conflagration*, are like to be

be felt by *Italy*, whose horrendous *Volcano's*, together with the late Shakings and Ereakings Earth in the bowels of it, would suggest suspicions of such Events; and perhaps by some other Countrys involved in the like Incorrigible Popery. 'Tis with some surprise, that I have read, what is related by, *Dion Cassius*, L. 66. about the Burning of the Mount *Vesuvius* in the Time of *Titus Vespasian*, whereof among other things, he Notes ——— *Quod clangor TUBARUM audiretur*, But *Italy* may be thoughtful, whether at the sounding of the *Scarab Trumpet*, the whole Territory thereabouts must not suddenly be turned into an Entire *Vesuvius*. Could I do the part of an Angel, I would now lay my Hand upon as many as I could, that I might hasten them away from the Reach of the Horrible Tempest, which may thus come like a Scare upon them: but, in this Discourse, I know, I shall be unto them, *As one that Mocketh*, or, *As one who Dreams of a Dry Summer*! Yet however, I will call as *Moses* did, when he saw the Earth going to Gape, and Fire to Rise for *Corah* and his Companions, Depart, I pray you, from the Tents of these wicked men, lest ye perish in all their Sins.

But there is another thing, which even some of those that imagine themselves to have Shaken hands with Popery (whatever they may have in the Belief of them) are too prone unto; and that is, *Persecution*. When that *Nebuchadnezzar*, had seen an Image of the Four Monarchies, he made that very Image, I suppose, a Statue, which whatsoever did not immediately Dissolve, was to be Burned for their Disobedience. This has been done

done by Antichrist, for many Ages; he ha's Erected an Image of the Preceding Monarchies, in his own Supremacy; and they that will not own him for a God, shall be Burned in his Furnace Persecution. But Wo to all Popish persecutors, in, *The Day of the Lord, that shall Burn like an Oven!* And if any have Renounced the Doctrine of Antichrist, yet for them to retain so much of the Spirit of Antichrist, as to Persecute Conscientious Brethren, is little to Consult their own Preservation, in that *Fury Day*. It is broadly intimated [in *Mat. 24 48, 49.*] That just before the Coming of our Lord, There shall be Church Officers, that shall molest their Fellow-Servants, who are desirous to have the Church Ordered by such Rules only as our Lord left for the Government of it when He went away; and that shall shew more favour to a Common Drunkard, than to one, that shall be, *A Faithful and Wise Servant in the House of God*. It is intimated, That some sudden Providence will at last surprize and overthrow [or assign a Portion with unbelievers] those Evil men; and I wish, we may all so take the Intimations, as to forbear all future Persecutions. Let me plainly leave this Warning with you; That if any of you, Venture to Persecute the Conscientious People of God [Yea, though it be no Greater a Cause, than, *A Scruple to Swear upon the Gospel*, that any of them do Conscientiously Expose themselves upon] You are like to be found among, The Last Persecutors; and be it known unto you, That if the the Last Persecutors have the peculiar Unhappiness, to bear those Terrible Revenges, which the Blood-sheds of all the former Ages have been calling for. I say again, and, *The Lord God of the Holy*

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Holy Prophets, may make this Generation feel what I say; I say, That all the Righteous Blood upon the Earth, from the Blood of Righteous Adam to the Blood of the Blessed Messenger, whom man lately butchered with most exquisite Cruelties, it shall be required of this Generation. The Persecutors of this Time, do make themselves Partakers to all those Witches, that have the Cry of the Blood under the Altar, going up to God against them; and let them know, That when the Day of the Fragrance of our God, is come [and it comes apace] to Comfort all that mourn, They shall be desirous wihal, as having the Guilt of all that Blood, lying upon their miserable Souls. Now, Consider this, ye Persecutors. Let His tear you to Pieces, and there be none to Deliver you.

VI. But I Consider my self as appearing this Day in my Arms among you; which Arms, you see, are a few smooth Stones in a Scrip with a Sling; I mean, a few proper and useful Texts, in the Scripture, with a Sermon; and I may not lay down my Arms, until I have made some Addresses more particularly to the Gentlemen, for whom tis that I now am in this Holy Service.

You, will then give me leave to tell you, That Your Swords and Spears are as yet Reprieved from the Change into Plough shares and Pruning-hooks, which they shall one Day be Condemned unto. Indeed, as Joshua could once make Time stand still, while the people of God were to use their Swords and Spears; if it were in our Power, we would make Time Run as so fast as presently to bring on the Golden Age, wherein Swords and

Spears

Years are all to be abolished: But in the mean time, I have this Exhortation for you; I pray you as Good use of your Swords and Spears as you can. The Prophet speaking of the Times shall immediately precede those peaceable ones, wherein they shall not learn war any more, as says in Joel 3. 9. 10. Prepare War, beat your Plough into Swords, and your Pruning Hooks into Spears. Behold, how my Text is to be Inverted, until the arrival of that Peaceable Day, which our Endeavours, cannot any more Anticipate, than we can make it *Midsommer* in the Depth of Winter. Though tis a no less Frinick than Wickel thing, for people to Raise Wars for the Introducing of that Peaceable Kingdom, which our Lord Jesus will yet have in [the] World; or to do like those mad Fifth Monarchy men, who have thought their Turbulent Insurrections would be Acceptable and Serviceable to the Holy Son of God, whose Kingdom is not of [this] world. It is Convenient for me to leave this Caution with you: Wherever Opinion shall have a Natural Tendency to move Seditions, Rebellions, Murders, and rob Caesar of the Rights that belong unto him in Gods Name, Renounce it with Damnation: there is no such Opinion countenanced by the Blessed Gospel of Peace. Yet our Duty to our God and our King, h's made it on many other Accounts necessary for us, at this Day, to be *Lothary of War*.

In the Learning of war, to which I shall for a while Encourage you; and wherein I should wonderfully Glorify your Learning, you understand, who your Text is. It is the speech of the Psalmist in Psalm 134.

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the Lord my strength which teaches my Hands to
fight, and my Fingers to Fight. Behold, what a
 is the Souldier ha's to be Learning of! So
 tis in that Honourable and Amiable Quali-
 ty, that our Artillery-Company do this Day appear;
 You are this Day to muster, as the Scholars of
 that Glorious God, who is, The Lord of Hosts;
 even of Him, who is the King of Glory, the Lord
 mighty in Battle. If you meet with any persons
 that carelessly refuse to come into your Compa-
 ny, pray, ask them, why they play the Traitor? *But*,
 now that you may be, Apt Scholars, I am
 to lay before you, a few Considerations which
 may close the Exercise that we are now upon.

The First Consideration.

There is like to be much Occasion yet for
 men to *Levy War*; Our Swords and our Spears
 are yet like to have a Sufficient Employment for
 them. Our Lord mentions it among the Signs of
His Coming, in Math. 24. 6. *Ye shall hear of wars*
and Rumours of wars. 'Tis a thing that seems to
 have at this Day, a Terrible and Amazing Ful-
 filment in the World; what Gazette can you read
 that ha's not Armies, and Campaigns, and Sieges
 filling both Pages of it? I Remember, *Lassan-
 tians* who Lived some Hundreds more than a Thou-
 sand years ago, ha's a Notion, That a little be-
 fore the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus come, there shall
 a Great Sword fall from Heaven to Earth; to Sig-
 nify that the Lord of the Coelestial Armies is at hand.
 And who do's not with Horrour Behold the Ac-
 complishment of that intimation? The Almighty
 God ha's hung down a Bloody Sword into the
 World,

Things to be Look'd for.

World, which the Nations every where are cruelly Butchering one another with. The Sword is every where making prodigious Alterations & Devastations; that Monstrous Earth is even lying fat upon the Carcasses of our Fellow-Sinners throughout the Universe; and, O the Sword of the Lord, when wilt thou be quiet? Surely, then, at such a Bloody Time as this, Men had need learn to Handle a Sword well; and study the Art of War. We are fallen into that Age whereof Balaam said, *Who shall then Live?* Now, my answer to that Question is; A man must first become a Good Christian, and then a Good Soldier, if he would now be able to Live. Never was there an Age wherein that Counsel of our Saviour was more seasonable for the World, in Luke 22. 36. *He that hath no Sword, Let him sell his Garment, and buy One.* Look almost where you will, and you shall see Garments Rolling in Blood; our very Garments then may justly go to buy Swords for our Defence against the Effusion of our Blood. And why should New England be Confident of Security and Immunity, while Tumults, Uprisers, Blood-sheds, are Tormenting the whole Sinfull World besides. The Indians among us and about us, are yet capable of giving sore Annoyances unto us. Tis true, there has been a strange Decay upon those Towns ever since we came into the Country; we see nothing short of a well-boiling Miracle, when we behold how they Wither, Languish, Perish, every Day; and if some Europeans had not by Indefatigable Sollicitations procured a Peace among them, they might long ere now have Extirpated one another from the face of the Earth.

EXPECTANDA; Or,

when we see how many Hundreds of them now Surviving and how little the Interest of the Gospel is either Pursued or Embraced among us altogether *Asleep*, if we have not our *Seniors*. Are not some of those *Catastrophes* reserved for *Therms* is our *Sides*? Or if we should not from them have much further Molestation, yet are we ignorant, That all the Princes in *Europe*, who own any part of *America*, must needs have their Eye upon these Plantations? Except our God give (and, let Him give) Remarkable Successes to our Nation at home, we have dismal Reason to Look for that Fate, At first, the Lord more slightly Afflicted the Land, and afterwards did more grievously Afflict her, by the way of the Sea. But that which of all has the blackest Aspect upon us, is the Divine Commination, in Lev. 26. 27. *I will bring a Sword, that shall avenge the Quarrel of my Covenant*. Alas, the *New-Englanders* do not so Generally Own, or Prize, or Keep, the Covenant of God, as that the Sword should find no Quarrel here? We do not yet so Generally appear before the Lord, in His House, as that no man should desire our Land.

The Second Consideration.

To Learn war, or, to use the Sword and the Spear, is not only a *Lawful*, but also a *Needful*, yea, and a very *Wise* Thing. There is a Set of men at this Day in the World, who Succeed the old *Muricees*, as well as other old *Hereticks*, in declaiming against all *Military Discipline*; but this is not the only thing wherein they shew themselves no less *unscriptural* than *Irrational*. The Blessed *Job*, of old gave several words of Command,

And, unto the Soldiers in his Company
but none of them was Lay down
The greatest Numbers of Men
the Oracles of God, were men that
by their Sides; who shew to God,
than Jesus, than the most like Judge of
The Thrice-Holy God himself, to be called
A Man of War; and when an Army was raised
once among the People of God, we find in
1. 13. The Angel of the Lord said, Gird ye
then that come not thereunto. I pray, what
Warrant have we to Expect Miracles for our
daily preservation when in our Swords we may
have the Means by which the Church of God, has
been hitherto protected? And what but Mi-
racles can preserve those that have no Swords to
keep off Invaders which every place is Exposed
unto? 'Tis true, That though the Story of the
Torbeas Legion be a Fable, yet there are Cases
wherein, Prayers and Tears, are to be our only
Arms; But for all that, Men have their Lives,
Liberties, Properties, which the very Light of Na-
ture teaches them to maintain by stronger Arms
against all Forreign Injuries. Christianity never
instructed men to lay down that Natural Principle
of Self-Preservation; which Principle some-times
calls aloud, where's a Sword? The Steel will
alwayes Command the Gold; men can have no
Right secur'd unto them, if they do not make
sure of might, whereby they may, *Non vi Repellere*.
That Ancien, who Wrote it Unbecoming for a
Christian to be a Soldier, was driven to this fur-
ther Absurdity, that he forbade a Christian to be
a witnes too, when the Blood of a Malefactor
might be thereby Endangered. But What is
Known.

EXPECTANDA ; Or,

Know we not, that the only Church which God had in the World, was a Camp, when *Israel* was in the Wilderness ; and know we not, that the Title of *War* is more than once, with an unspeakable Satisfaction Challenged by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself ! Or, shall I tell you ? The very *Angels* of Heaven are but so many Heavenly Armies ; and they are described as, *All Holding Swords, being Experts in War.*

It is therefore no Unreasonable thing, That *Excellence in Arms*, has in all Ages been the Original of *Nobility*. The ancient Romans prefer'd those to be their *Magistrates*, who had first been their *Soldiers* ; and, I pray, what are the *Escatchegons*, or *Coats of Arms*, deriv'd unto us from our Ancestors, but marks Engraven on *Shields* to Commemorate their *Achievements* in the Field ? By Feats of Arms, tis no rare thing for Persons of a mean *Birth*, to arise unto such *Grandeurs* and *Honours*, as give a stop to all further Ambition. What was *David* but a *Shepard* ? The Persian Emperour *Cambyses*, was but the Son of a *Carrier* ; the Turkish Emperour *Ottoman*, was but a *Camel-driver* ; and it were a peice of *Baseness* to envy the Advancements, in such a way arriv'd. In short, As the Field has first given most of those *Dignities*, which men do now Value themselves upon, so it ha's bred those *Edwards* which have made men the Admiration of the World.

The Third Consideration.

They that Learn *War*, had need Learn something else, and they that handle *Swords & Spears* ought at the same time to be furnished with

Qua-

Qualifications that shall be truly Extraordinary. We assure you, such Edg'd Tools require more than a little Wisdom in those that wear them. It is a place in the Field, that gives a person claim to such a Style as that of, *His Excellency*; and a Souldier truly should many ways have something of Excellency in him. He that would be a *Commander*, should indeed have some insight into all the *Liberal Arts*; especially, those of the *Mathematicks*; and he must be Master of such a *Carriage* herewithall, as to Charm at once the *Love* and *Fear* of those that shall be under him. But there are further *Virtues*, from which not so much as a *Private Souldier* should count himself Excusable.

The first thing that Recommends a Souldier, would be *Courage*; a *Courage* like that which inspired *Julius Caesar* to say, unto some that would have Scared him, *I le sooner Dy than be Afraid*; a *Courage* like that of *Sampson*, or *David*, who durst even take a *Lion* by the Throat. Lest we should any of us, be call'd unto any *Sea Encounters*, let me touch upon this one Instance more of such a *Courage*, A stout Athenian, pursuing the *Perfians* to their Ships, when one of their Boats was putting off the Shoar, he got hold of it with his Right hand, and kept his hold until his Hand was cut off; he then laid hold of it with his Left hand, and kept his hold until that Hand also was cut off; hereupon he clapt hold of it with his Teeth, until further Help came up. Such an Undaunted and Obsolete Resolution, well becomes a Souldier! he should Scorn to have any *Weakness*, but what he may see with in Looking over a *Shoulder*. Let me Repeat unto you the Words of a

by the Lord-General of Israel in his Military Or-
tion of old, *Be of Good Courage, and let us play
the men!*

the *Lias Skis* must sometimes be peiced
in another; there is *Cunning* Requisite unto
a Soldier too; the *Cunning* of well Employing &
well-applying the weapons with which you are
Barrustled; the *Cunning* of Inventing and perform-
ing a neat *Stratagem* when tis called for. How
Commonly do's *Policy* out do *Prissance*? The
Policy to know and to take all *Advantages* is
that, of which the Wise man ha's told us, *Tis
better than weapons of war!* So *Joshua* found it
when *Hi* was to be Conquered; and so the King
of Poland found it a few years ago when he made
an Army of an Hundred Thousand *Muscovites*, all
cast themselves at his Feet, without giving any
manner of Battel to them. But it is not for me
to Read Military Lectures before our *Hannibals*. I
shall rather press upon you, that which is, *The one
thing Needful for us all*; *Tis Piety, Tis Holiness,*
Tis Religion that you should in the first place
Labour to be Qualify'd withall. *Souldiers* have
been hitherto Reproached for a sort of Blades, in
whom, there is, *Nulla Fides, Pietasque* — But O
Confute that Clamour by your Godly Conversation.
It is pity to see a fine Souldier, with an unhappy
BUT upon him; as we read of ore, in a King.
5. 2. *He was a mighty man in Valour, BUT he was a
Lepre*; so it may be said of some, *He is a fine
Souldier, BUT a Debaucher. BUT a Miligent Enemy
of all that is Holy and Just and Good. Such a BUT
is a Leprosy that spoils all the rest. It is not the
Atheist, but the Believer, that is the Souldier to be
best accounted of.* Indeed such Fellowes as be
Furious

Things to be Look'd for.

Furious and Infamous Bucanniers, may do (as they have done) many Things of a most Incredible Adventure; but this I am sure of; the *Ruler* in the Eleventh Chapter to the Hebrews, did this of a far Greater Bravery. It is not to be supposed, That men which carry about a Dirty and a Guilty Conscience with them, will have so much of the Divine presence to smile upon their Enterprises, as those whom the Blood of Jesus hath *Sprinkled from an Evil Conscience*. Usually, They are not the Debauched, Swearing, Cursing, part of Mankind, that will acquit themselves with the most Vigorous and Successful Gallantry; a Divine of some Note once Preaching before *K. Charles I.* delivered this passage, *Sir, when God Damn me, Leads the Van; and, The Devil take me, brings up the Rear, never think that your Armies will do you any Considerable Service.* The English Nation had given a mere Uncontroloable Command unto all Europe at this Day; if it had never been under any such Conduct; or if more of its Leaders had been more like the Just and Good Prince now upon the Throne. A little Handful of Chast, Sober, Devout Persons, a small Army of Saints would be able to drive the whole World before them; *Our world Chase a thousand, & two put ten thousand to Flight*; a Praying Legion will be a Thundring Legion. In fine, a Soldier is Good for Little if in an Article of Deadly Danger, he must cry out, *I cannot Dy, I dare not Dy*! Let your Peace be made with the Omnipotent God, before you Encounter with any other Adversary. First Lift your selves under the Banner of the Lord Jesus Christ, before you go upon any other Warfare. You all have one very Frightful, Ghastly, hideous Enemy

Enemy, to look in the face; from a War with whom, you can have no Discharge; it is said in
 13. 26. *The last Enemy is Death.* Where-

As your Commanders will anon in diverse points make a Trial of your Souldiery, so I shall now try you with one material Question thereupon; tis this, *Can you Dy?* Give me leave to Exercise you a little before we part! Can you Cheerfully stand amidst a Shower of Bullets, and bravely say, *Death, Strike, if thou dare! the worst thou art able to do me, is to send me unto Heavens before the Rest of my Neighbours!* If you have, and I Bless God, I see the Faces of some that have, thus far attained, I will call you, *Souldiers indeed;* and Salute you in the Words of the Angel, *The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of Valor!*

The Last Consideration.

The most grateful and Cordial of our Acknowledgements are due to You, that are this Day *Leaving of War.* Could I speak with a Voice, that should reach to all the *Souldiers of New-England*, or to all that are Studious to Countenance *Military Discipline* among us, I would presume in the Name of all the Sensible persons in the Country, to Express all possible Regards unto them, I would Venture to say,

'Tis to You under God, that we owe the many Comforts of our Lives; we should soon be Rob'd of all that is dear unto us, in the World, if it were not known that there were such as You to set the Price of all. Our Plough shares and Pruning hooks would not be able to feed us, if your Swords and Spears, were

were not a Guard unto them. Our Shops would
 be soon Emptied by those that would Measure
 our Wares by the *Long Ell*, that is, the *Pike*; if
 You kept them not. It is by Your means,
 Gods *Houses* among us, have His Ordinances
 Undisturbed in them; and that our *Own Houses*,
 are full of things that are as well Necessary,
 as Convenient for us; And of this we are the
 more feelingly Convinced, because we saw a Vi-
 sible Antipathy to the *Military Spirit* of *New-*
England, in those that lately propounded unto
 themselves the Nipping and Creeping of these
 Plantations. We do therefore Confess, that for
 us to Discourage You, is to bespeak Losses and
 Ruins for our selves; and we Confess that when
 you have been in any particular Services Ex-
 posed for us, it is not only an Abominable thing
 for us to Cheat you of your *Wages*, but also a
 Dishonourable thing if we do not bestow some
 Signal marks of Love and Care upon your Fam-
 ilies; We hope, we wish, that Professing *New-*
Englanders will at last Exceed Pagan *Athenians* in
 such a Gratitude unto the Well-deserving *Sold-*
iers of the Country.

But the Thanks that should be given to all
 that have the *Spirit of Souldiery* among us, are
 particularly belonging to that *warshipful Company*,
 which by asking a Sermon this Day, have declared
 the God of Heaven to be their *Commander in chief*.
 We Thank you, our most worthy Friends for this
 your Zeal of being made Capable to Fight, you,
 and to *Dy* for your Distressed Neighbours. Your
Voluntary Association, and Combination for the
Learning of war, Obliges us to count you Extra-
 ordinary; and it becometh us thereupon to say,

My Heart is towards those that Offered themselves willingly among the People ; Bles ye the Lord. Sobriety do's further make us to Expecting from you but what is Notable and Laudable ; I would humbly speak it for your Encouragement ; Here is a Large Band of Soldiers among whom this whole Day of Diversion will not afford one man Drunk, or one Oath Sworn, or one Curse Drop'd, or one Health swallow'd, or one Observable Misbehaviour. You are in this respect, the Glory of New England, which may Challenge the biggest part of the World by far, to show the Like ! But your Soldierry, is that which adds to our Expectations from you ; for I will say this for the men of New England, There is not, I suppose, that People under the Sun, which dare meet them upon Equal Terms ; but yourselves are to be esteemed as the Flower and Choice of our Forces : I hope, that every one of You will have at Least a File of Ordinary Soldiers in him.

*Go on then, ye Worthy Persons ; and let nothing Dishearten you from the Prosecution of your Generous Undertakings. You have our Unlimited Acclamations, Go on ! A great Warriour of old, would be so Eager in his Battels, that the very Blood would Spirt out of his Lips ; Could these Words of mine flame with as much Earnestness and Vehemency, they should but Vigorously say, Go on ! Go on ! But when I say, Go on, you must also suppose it said, *Am Right* ; otherwise to Go on, will be to Go out of the Way. 'Tis probable, that one of your principal Encouragements is, To be Good Marks men ; but I hope, you are Singularly careful, to Aim at the Praise of*

Things to be Look'd for.

of God, in all you do ; that you will have
Holiness to the Lord, Engrav'd upon all your
Arms ; and that you still say, In the Name of
our God will we set up our Banners.

For that cause then, Accept the Blessing, which
we now live to dismiss you with ; tis that which
was used unto an Eminent Soldier of old ; Since
thou Fighest the Battles of the Lord, Let thy Soul
be Bound up in the Bundle of Life with the Lord
thy God. May this Artillery Company be a
little Nursery of Renowned Soldiers : May all
of you have Opportunities with Inclinations to
Serve your Generation according to the will of God ;
May your Live to the Day, and I know not but
some of you that are now in this Assembly,
may Live to the Day, when you shall Beat your
Swords into Plough shares, and your Spears into
Pruning hooks ; but if you first fall *A slip*, may
every one of you be Conquerors and more than
Conquerors over the Destroyers of your Souls ;
and may you be Transplanted from this *Exile*
into those Regions, where the Lord Jesus Christ
is a Standard bearer unto many Thousands, and
where a Crown of Righteousness is bestow'd up-
on all them that have Loved His Appearing.

The END.

NOBIS Plac Totâ, Redempt Spectacula
manê,
Imperium, Cum patre
Christus habet.

J. Stangor, Felicitas
Ultimi seculi.

Laetitia Assertio.

Veneret igitur Summi et Maximi Dei Filius—
Verum, M.L.E., cum deleverit injositiam,
iudiciumque maximum fecerit, ac Iustos, qui
a Principio fuerunt, ad Vitam Restauraverit,
Mille Annis inter Homines versabitur, Eosque
iustissimo Imperio reget. Lib. 7. Cap. 24.

Hieronymi Concessio.

Quæ Licet non requiruntur, tamen Condemnare
non Possumus, eo quod multi vivorum Ecclesi-
asticorum et Martyrum, ista dixerint.

Comment. in Jer. 19.

Verba Celebris Cujusdam Scriptoris.

Neque debent à Nobis petere Adversarii, cur
sequamur Proprium sensum Verborum, simile
enim id esset, ac si, quod peteret ab his, qui sunt
in itinere, cur sequamur Viam Communem et
Tritam. Nemo sanus id querit; vel cur In-
grediamur per portam, non per Fenestram.

